



Emperor Alexander

Woodcut style & Sigat R. Acker

S K E T C H E S
O F
R U S S I A;

ILLUSTRATED WITH
FIFTEEN ENGRAVINGS.

London :

PRINTED FOR R. ACKERMANN, 101, STRAND,
BY J. DIGGINS, ST. ANN'S LANE.

—♦♦♦—
1814.

TO
HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS
THE
GRAND DUCHESS
OF
OLDENBURG,
THESE SKETCHES
ARE MOST HUMBLY DEDICATED,
BY
HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS's
MOST DEVOTED,
AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

PAUL SVININE

LIST OF PLATES,

AND

CONTENTS.

PLATE	PAGE
1 <i>Portrait of the Emperor Alexander</i>	1
2 <i>Portrait of the Empress of Russia</i>	10
3 <i>View of the Monument of Peter the Great</i>	12
4 <i>View of Mr. Paschkoff's House, in Moscow</i>	30
5 <i>Sketch, representing a Cozak, killing a Tyger in Siberia, with an Account of the Cozaks</i>	47
6 <i>View of the Cazan's Church in St. Petersburg, with a Description of it</i>	58
7 <i>View of the Field of Mars, in St. Petersburg, with an Account of its principal Edifices and Objects</i>	67
8 <i>A Circassian in his military Costume, with a brief Account of that People</i>	72
9 <i>General View of the Kremlin</i>	81
<i>The Palace of the Czars, in the Kremlin</i>	83

CONTENTS.

PLATE	PAGE
11 <i>View of the New Exchange, in St. Petersburg, with a Description of that Edifice</i>	93
12 <i>Representation of the Russian Winter Amusement on the Ice Mountains</i>	97
13 <i>Russian Mode of travelling in Summer</i>	102
14 <i>————— in Winter</i>	104
15 <i>View of a Summer Garden, in St. Petersburg, illustrated with an Account of it ; and a Speci- men of Russian National Poetry and Music</i>	106

TO THE

EDITOR FROM THE AUTHOR.

IN compliance with your desire, I send you fifteen drawings selected from my port-folio of Russian views and costumes, having subjoined to each a description as correct and interesting as my knowledge, few resources, and the shortness of time allowed me. It is the more agreeable to me to fulfil your wish at this moment, when I flatter myself that these little Sketches will be favourably accepted by the Public on account of the new interest and glory, which my countrymen have recently acquired, in co-operation with the noble efforts of the British Nation, for the establishment of general peace and independence.

The magnanimous conduct of the Emperor Alexander, which speaks by deeds more than by words, will justify the recital of several of his actions, which through his modesty have until now been left unnoticed.

I cannot but permit myself some observations, which I find indispensable accompaniments to my Sketches,

A man who has never passed the barrier raised by nature, or by political institutions between his country and the rest of the world, knows other nations, only through the medium of books, which are often tinged either with panegyric or satire. This is particularly the case with regard to Russia. If we were to judge of that country from the accounts of the majority of travellers we should certainly have a very false idea of it. Unfortunately Travels in Russia have generally been the objects of speculators, who, taking advantage of the remote situation of that country, and desirous of rendering the narrative of their travels interesting, have related ridiculous wonders and strange falsehoods. For example, one of these enlightened observers laughs at the folly of the Russians in lighting a fire in the streets for the purpose of warming the air. He, certainly, made this ridiculous observation after having seen in very cold weather in the public places and squares, and near the theatres and palaces, fires lighted for the coachmen in waiting to warm themselves by. Another remarks, that in Siberia, there is a particular kind of *dog*, which they call *sabaka*. *Sabaka*, in Russian, exactly signifies *dog* in English. Several travellers, after traversing the vast empire of Russia in three months, as for

instance—Dr. Clarke, have written the History of that Country, with Criticisms on its Language, without understanding a single word of it. After experiencing Russian hospitality, they assume the right of calumniating the Russian people, and impose upon their readers. Unfortunately such details, *if they suit a certain party-spirit*, not only obtain praise from those critical journals, which are regarded as the most impartial and enlightened, but are even recommended by them for their fidelity !

Russia is quite different from all other countries : its natives have some characteristics, which belong peculiarly to themselves. They must be studied in order to be described. Their constitutional vivacity places them as a people, wholly distinct from other northern nations. Let an Englishman, or a German dress himself in a Russian long wide coat, this alone cannot metamorphose him into a Russian, and the Russian will never mistake him for his countryman.

In this place I find it very apposite to give a translation of a Fragment of the new and interesting work of Mr. Fabre—*Les Bagatelles*—written with a masterly, spirited, and eloquent pen. This Fragment will give a general *coup-d'œil* and lively picture of St. Petersburg. I

shall only add, that the foundation of this capital was laid by Peter the Great in 1703, that it now contains 250,000 inhabitants, and is about twenty miles in circumference.

“ If I could have, only for one day, the fairy Morgiana’s wand, I would delight myself in my own way, and here is what it would consist in:—On a fine spring or summer’s day, I would take with me a man from the most civilized country of the South of Europe, who should be celebrated for his enlightened mind, and the experience acquired from travels, and accurate observation of the world; and I would transport him through the air to St. Petersburg. He should be blindfold whilst on the journey, and in this state I would conduct him to the Neva, to the place where all the merchant vessels arrive, to the quarter of the old Exchange. Before taking the bandage from his eyes, I would say to him—Sir, guess where you are?—He would tell me—I smell about me merchandize—bale goods: here are oranges, lemons, walnuts, leather, raisins. Now I hear the pulling of ropes; the cries of sailors, hauling up merchandize. I smell the tar of the rigging. I hear the ship-carpenters at work. I hear Danish, English, Swedish, German words, and others that are unknown to me, and that sound very soft. I

must be in the port of a commercial city.— Then I would take the bandage from the eyes of my fellow-traveller, transported with joy that he guessed right. Seeing a forest of masts, and a variety of different costumes round him, he would be sufficiently compensated for the moments he had been deprived of light.

“ Again, I would bind his eyes, and with one leap we should find ourselves in the middle of the summer-garden. We proceed along the great walk, in the shade of those majestic trees which diffuse a pleasing freshness. It is the rendezvous of the beau-monde of the capital. Sometimes you are crowded—you make way—and then avoid each other. Every thing is decent in this superb walk; every thing displays luxury and opulence, and an atmosphere of delicious perfumes precedes and follows the groups of elegant women. You meet gentlemen with the cross suspended from a button, or with a star under the lappel of a plain coat. The brilliant footmen, the negroes, the Turks in livery, the little marmosets dressed like Chinese, the running footmen, following their mistresses with shawls on their arms, the long row of equipages ranged at every gate of the garden, the variety, the magnificence of the spectacle

strikes my observer with astonishment. I ask him—where does he think he is?—It is quite another world, he replies; it is an opulent city; but it is not a commercial town. I see a brilliant court, but I do not know of what city.

“ In order that my observer might not perceive that he moves in the same circle, I put the bandage over his eyes at every change of place. From the summer-garden I transport him into the middle of the island of Krestovsky. Here on all sides the citizens and artizans divert themselves after labour: some playing nine-pins, others smoking. There the whole families of these honest men under the shade of a tree are taking tea; others sitting round a table, are eating cold meats, or strawberries and cream. They sing, they converse: their young daughters amuse themselves in swings; others roll from the mountains*. Sir, my airy traveller says to me, just now I might have been in France; but this is like a fair of a small German town. I hear their language†, their songs; I see their manners. I must be very far from the place where we have just been.

“ Suddenly I transport my observer to the island of Kamennoy. I place him on the bridge.

* In cars on wheels, somewhat resembling sledges.

† A great many of the artizans in St. Petersburg are Germans.

The enchanting island appears to our eyes as if floating on the silver waves. It is surrounded by voluptuous groves, by high and majestic trees. In the middle of the verdant amphitheatre are planted numbers of delightful country-seats: yellow, white, rose, blue, and the most smiling colours distinguish the fronts of them. You cannot guess in what manner they are constructed: you might think they are of china, or of pasteboard, they seem to be so light. You perceive among them some of France, others of Italy, of England, of Holland, of China; but, altogether, they are of no country. This climate must be very temperate—must unite all climates. The sky is serene, the water is limpid, the vegetation is fresh and vigorous. This island is surrounded by many others: everywhere water is seen, everywhere verdure, everywhere enchantment and fairy land! I do not know, Sir, where I am. I cannot guess the style of the architecture, not even the climate, nor the vegetation.

“ I transport my traveller to the new walk of the Admiralty. There are Englishmen; here Turks, Spaniards; there Armenians; the latter born in Caucasus. I have seen those nations in engravings, they are here in nature: they act, they walk, as they would show them-

selves. Is it an illusion or reality? Each speaks his own language. This is the rendezvous of different nations; but they are not merchants. These buildings are not those of a commercial town. That is a palace, which must be the habitation of the greatest monarch. How large! What inspiring grandeur! I must be in one of the first capitals of Europe!

“ The bandage is put on again, and my observer is transported to the street of Nevsky. Look around you, I say to him; examine, Sir, these houses, and tell me where do you think you are? He answers, such elegant houses, such places with flat roofs, are met with in Italy, in France: they are simple, and of an agreeable taste, but no distinct mark points out their country. This walk does not belong to London. London does not possess granite; its streets are not so wide and spacious. Neither Amsterdam, nor Venice presents canals of this magnificence: these are not the uniform bricks of Holland, nor the dull gondolas of the Lagone; which is not bordered by wide streets and footways; iron-railing does not surround the waters of Amstel. This street surpasses in its length the celebrated street of Berlin. Neither Turin nor Florence possesses such dimensions. I do not behold the antique monuments of Rome, but I see columns of marble:

Marble and granite strike the eye everywhere. Everywhere I find a bloom and elegance, which I have not seen in other places. London, Paris, Vienna, have not these equipages. There the movement is great, here it is more noisy and precipitate. This city, Sir, says my traveller, is one of the first in the world ; this is the fifth which you have shown me.

“ Keeping him still in suspense, I place him suddenly in the midst of the Russian, Livonian, and Finland peasants. There he is at the hay-market. He is afraid of their bushy beards, of their bristly chins, of these men in coarse pelisses, or in coarse woollen cloth, with fur caps. Their hairy breasts, their bare necks, their shoes made of the bark of trees, astonish and amaze him. What equipages ! What harness ! I have never seen such before. What do these wooden arches mean on the necks of the horses ? All is rustic and vigorous, all is strange ; even the horses ! I never saw so near an approach to the infancy of the human race, and its misery. This, Sir, is the sixth city to which you have conducted me ; those men and equipages are foreign to the habitations which surround this immense place. We have passed from the extreme point of civilization to its opposite.

“ You saw, Sir, I say to him, one and the

same city; and in your various travels you remained within the same circle. Guess now, Sir, where you are!

“ This city, my observer would answer me, if it is in Europe, cannot be any other than St. Petersburg. Such a pleasing and various aspect, marked by such great features, is not an appendage of any other city in the world. This seems to belong to all nations, encloses more than one climate, and comprehends all extremes.”

BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

THE actions of a great and good Sovereign are ever open and conspicuous: they invite scrutiny—they command admiration. The history of them is recorded in the hearts of all his subjects. A monarch who justly estimates the glory of his station has but one wish: it is—to be the father of his people; the assertor and defender of their rights; the protector of their liberties; their instructor and their guardian. Such a monarch is the Emperor of Russia. His accession to the throne was as the dawn of a new and glorious day over those vast regions and that multitude of nations, which he was called to govern.

How pleasing, and at the same time how easy a task is it to trace the course of such a luminary

toward its bright and unclouded zenith; cheering and animating in its progress all who dwell within the great sphere of its influence.

Alexander Paulovitz acceded to the throne of all the Russias on the 12th of March 1801, and was crowned, according to the custom of his ancestors, in the ancient capital of Moscow, in the same year, on the 15th September, at the age of twenty-four.

Educated in the principles of the great Catherine, inheriting all her great and august qualities, and endowed with a spirit of the purest philanthropy, he, on receiving the crown of the Czars, fulfilled the hopes of his subjects by the proclamation of those *Ukases*, which prove that he was sent to establish the happiness of Russia.

On the second of April 1801, he abolished by his imperial decree the *secret bureau of justice*, and by another decree equally philanthropic and humane was appointed a commission for the examination of the processes of the unfortunate exiles in Siberia. While the former ensured the safety and self-confidence of his subjects, the other recalled from exile many useful members for society, and for the eminent service of their country.

These *Ukases* were followed by one still more beneficent.

beneficent. This was the principle of voluntary enfranchizement of the Russian peasant, to which many of the Russian nobles, as his majesty expected, cheerfully conformed. Counts Romanzoff, Demidoff, and Prince Koorakin, immediately enfranchized several thousands of their peasants; and it is calculated now that more than 100,000 men have received their liberty, with their landed property from different other nobles.

One of the first objects of his majesty's ambition seemed to be the completion of that grand system of national improvement of which his great ancestor Peter the First had so wisely laid the foundations. To this end he adopted in 1802, a plan of public institution entirely new in Russia, and formed on the model of the best institutions existing in Europe. Establishing parish-schools, and central schools; gymnasia and universities; he admitted four degrees for the cultivation of the sciences in his empire. These institutions, in the course of a few years, were judiciously modified and ameliorated. Russia has now six universities, conducted by excellent professors in every department of science and learning; possesses forty-two gymnasia, one for each government; normal schools for medicine, for the nobility, the military, the marine, commerce, agriculture, the forests, the fine arts; excellent institutions for the educa-

tion of the fair sex, under the direction of the Empresses. There are also several learned societies of very recent date: a society of belles lettres, another for the cultivation and improvement of the Russian language, and another for history and literature. Public libraries abound, and the taste of all classes for literary and scientific pursuits may be estimated from the increasing number of printing-presses, established in all parts of this vast empire.

By another ukase his majesty established separate administrations: that of justice, of military affairs, naval affairs, foreign relations, interior relations, commerce, and instruction; and, some years afterward, that of police.

By an ukase dated October 21, 1803, there was established a commission of the laws. In 1811 appeared the first volume of the results of the labours of that commission; it treats of *personal rights*. According to the original plan, approved by his Majesty, this commission was to occupy itself: First, on the universal principles of right. Secondly, on the modification of the same principles, and exceptions for some parts of the empire, according to their situation and their individual relations. The ukase of the 7th March 1809, gave to the legislative commission a new direction: it was enjoined

enjoined to occupy itself, first on the civil code; secondly, on the criminal code; thirdly, on the commercial code; fourthly, on the different departments of political œconomy and public right in general; fifthly, on the adoption of the provincial laws, for the governments of Little Russia and conquered Poland.

In the year 1809, his Majesty ordained the formation of a supreme administrative council, consisting of thirty-two members and four presidents; one for every section in which it is divided. Over this council the Emperor presides in person when present at their meeting, and in his absence a commissioner, who was to be changed every year. First section, that of legislation; second, of the administration of justice in all affairs, spiritual and temporal; third, of military affairs by sea and by land; fourth, of the internal œconomy, comprising the finances, commerce, manufactures, agriculture, medical superintendance, public instruction, and every other branch of domestic administration.

One of the most essential articles—the communication between various parts of the interior by water, was confided to the care of the Prince of Oldenburg; who, with so much zeal and intelligence, has improved this important object. There have

have been established several canals for the junction of the great and the small rivers, and mounds have been raised on the banks of those whose inundations were dangerous.

The reign of his Majesty was also illustrated by the successful achievement of a voyage round the world by the captains Kruzenstern and Lissianskoy, on board the vessels Neva and Nadejda.

The Emperor Alexander, ever zealous for the encouragement of the fine arts, has embellished his empire with some of their best productions, and is the creator of the most superb public edifices in Russia.

On reviewing the rise, progress, and accomplishment of these truly imperial plans for the amelioration of his government, and the strength and happiness of his people, we should naturally be led to suppose that the Emperor Alexander had enjoyed a reign of peace and security from all hostile attacks. How much grander, how much more magnanimous does he appear when we reflect that while intent on these noble aims, a great part of his military force was occupied by a long and vexatious war with Turkey and Sweden; that he bore a principal share in those disquietudes

quietudes, with which the Despot of France afflicted all Europe ; that having twice taken up arms for the deliverance of Germany, having twice negotiated peace in the spirit of peace, he gave proofs of the most heroic and angelic forbearance during the last and most flagrant outrage, which Bonaparte committed—the invasion of Russia. If Alexander had in his two former wars sustained some reverses, they did not alienate the hearts of his subjects ; like his great ancestor the Emperor Peter the First, he acquired glory in defeat, and his faithful armies heroically retired to await the day of retribution. At the last and more trying moment, when the sacred city of Moscow was violated by the French, his confidence in God, and in the loyalty of his subjects never forsook him ; the ties of loyalty and affection, which bound them to him, strengthened by being strained ; their hearts acquired stronger temper by being tried in the fire of adversity, and when the sacrifice of Moscow was performed, their united indignation and patriotic revenge rolled forth in one full and resistless tide, broke down the entire strength of the most mighty army ever known in the world, and drove its scattered remains from the plains of *Moscow* to the banks of the *Seine*.

Nor was the magnanimous spirit of Alexander less

less conspicuous in conquest than in adversity. When Bonaparte entered Moscow, he entered like a wild beast; all Paris hailed the entrance of Alexander, not as that of a destroying but of a restoring angel. His perseverance in the most arduous contest recorded in the annals of the world has been always super-human; and no doubt its reward will be glorious. He will carry back with him to his capital the benediction of all Europe, for her restored liberties; he will be hailed then with the proudest, the most exalted title, that the gratitude of human beings can bestow on an earthly monarch---that of the *father of his country* and deliverer of *Europe!* The works of peace, with which he so nobly began his reign, will be perfected under his paternal care, the loyalty, the intelligence, the science, the social affection, and the spirit of improvement, which he has planted and cherished in the hearts of all Russians, will grow and flourish under his fostering eye, and the world will recognize as head of the mightiest and most extensive of its empires, *the best of men!*

Among the acquisitions made by the arms of the Emperor Alexander, one of the most important was that of *Finland*, which was indispensable to the safety of his capital, and was planned by his ancestors. On the west he aggrandized his

is empire by the annexation of the government
of *Belostock*, and on the east by that of *Georgia*,
which country voluntarily submitted herself to

M E M O I R
OF THE
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

THE life of the Empress Elizabeth is like the course of a pure stream: which, tranquil in itself, disperses the most efficient benefits wherever it flows. The unfortunate never quit her portals without relief and comfort; the injured, in this angel of goodness find protection and justice; the aged and the fatherless, under her roof, are blessed with an assylum; real merit in art or in science may depend on her for encouragement and the most effectual patronage.

The union of her Majesty with the Emperor Alexander took place on the tenth of October, 1793. Descended from the illustrious house of Baden, she, on this occasion, exchanged the name of

of Louisa Maria Augusta, for that of Elizabeth Alexievna, and was crowned at Moscow on the 15th September 1801. Her Majesty was born January 13th, 1779.

A tender and affectionate consort, she was doomed to sustain the affliction of losing two dear pledges of so happy an union ; in these infants were centered the cherished hopes of Russia ; and the general grief at their loss was exceeded only by the sorrows of their disconsolate parent. These sorrows deeply affected the health of her Majesty.

All the hours which her Majesty can abstract from the duties of her exalted situation are entirely devoted to the cultivation of science and the fine arts, in which she is thoroughly skilled.

The person of her Majesty is perfectly proportioned ; her air and demeanour, though replete with goodness and condescension, are marked with a dignity truly imperial, and command universal admiration and respect.

THE MONUMENT
OF
PETER THE GREAT,
IN
ST. PETERSBURG.

IN this monument, so justly celebrated for its beauty and magnificence, is beheld a combination of the sublime and majestic, worthy of the great monarch whom it represents, and characteristic of the taste and enterprising genius of the princess who raised, and dedicated it to him, in the year 1782. On the monument is this very laconic, and at the same time, eloquent inscription:

PETRO PRIMO.
CATHARINA SECUNDA*.
M.DCC.LXXXI.

The Emperor, mounted on a beautiful charger, is crowned with laurel, and in a costume, half

* To Peter the First—Catharine the Second.



half Russian, and half Roman. In pointing with his right hand towards the river, the admiralty and academies, he reminds the spectator that the navy, the arts and sciences, originated, and were fostered in Russia, under his own protecting care; and seems to say: "The wonders you behold, are my work."

His impetuous courser appears on a steep and barren rock, in the attitude of climbing; which seems to denote, that it required this monarch's utmost strength, courage and perseverance, to surmount all obstacles in his ascent to the summit of glory.

The skin of a vanquished lion serves for a saddle, and the horse treads on a hideous serpent, which represents the overthrow of envy and superstition.

The Empress Catharine, inspired with enthusiastic admiration for this great monarch, conceived the design of raising a monument, which should not disgrace his memory; and in the year 1766, having approved of the model projected by Mr. Falconet, she empowered him to carry it into execution.

To obtain a block of stone large enough for the pedestal, was the next object of consideration; and

and after some pains and labour, a rock, answering the purpose, and of the finest granite, was found in a forest on the borders of Finland, about ten miles from St. Petersburg, and three from the Gulf of Cronstadt. This rock, when separated from its bed, measured on the spot twenty-one feet in height, twenty-one in breadth, and thirty-two in length; and weighed, according to mathematical calculation more than three millions of pounds. The removal of it would have been attended with the greatest difficulty, had not a peasant from Archangel, who happened to be amongst the labourers, invented, as it were by inspiration, a machine*, which, being very simple, was universally approved of. In consequence of this, a causeway was built from the spot where the rock stood, to the river side; four hundred men drew it upon sledges by means of enormous brass globes, which rolled in oblong boxes of the same metal: every day it was moved 1600 feet. After reaching the bank of the Neva, it was conveyed upon an immense raft.

The statue and the horse are composed of brass, with some portion of tin and zinc. They weigh

* People envious of the Russians, say that they possess only in a high degree the art of imitation: but is not this a sign of a soul of a superior stamp? We know that the tutors of Leibnitz found in him only a capacity for imitation.

weigh 44,014 pounds. To produce an equilibrium 100,000 pounds of iron was added to the hinder parts of the horse. The head, the hands, the feet, and the drapery, are only three lines* thick. The body of the rider, as well as the head and the fore-feet of the horse, are four lines. The other parts are an inch in thickness.

There are very few statues of the same size cast with such delicacy; and its execution is as fine as its conception is great. Above all, the horse is full of expression and nature: the smallest muscle is to be perceived. Vast sums were expended on this monument.

Its consecration was celebrated on the 7th of August, 1782, with great military pomp, with the discharge of cannon, accompanied with music. The Empress was present at this ceremony, and it was a day of joy and happiness to every Russian.

This epoch was rendered still more dear to them, as it was signalized by an imperial decree, annulling all law-suits that had existed more than ten years; and gave liberty to all those debtors who had been more than five years in prison. It also annulled all debts not exceeding five hundred

* A line is the twelfth part of an inch.

dred rubles, which were due to the crown. On this occasion medals of gold and silver were struck and distributed.

The Russian monarchs have always commemorated signal events by their liberality and beneficence.

This monument is in the centre of a large square, surrounded by the finest edifices: amongst which are a church built of marble, the senate house and the riding academy of the horse guards, which is an imitation of an ancient temple of Minerva. The bridge of the Neva is in front of it, and on the other side of the river is the beautiful building of the academy of fine arts. The monument is enclosed by a handsome iron railing, highly gilt.

Nothing can be more imposing and majestic than the *coup d'œil* which this statue presents, when viewed from the side of the river Neva, and especially when the horizon is filled with small clouds, gilded by the rays of the departing sun. The effect is then uncommonly beautiful, as the pedestal is hid from the sight, and the horse and rider appear to be gliding through the heavens. What a fine subject for a painter! what sensations does not this excite?

Where

Where is the Russian who can behold this monument without being penetrated with admiration and gratitude towards his benefactor?

Peter the Great, like a benevolent genius, appeared on the horizon of Russia and enlightened its darkness. It was he who first introduced the arts and sciences—who created formidable armies and navies—who made wise and liberal laws: in short, it is to him that Russia owes her happiness and glory.

Thomson has justly celebrated this immortal Emperor in the following beautiful lines:

What cannot active government perform,
New-moulding man? Wide-stretching from these
shores,
A people savage from remotest time,
A huge neglected empire, *one vast mind*,
By heaven inspir'd, from Gothic darkness call'd.
Immortal PETER! first of monarchs! he
His stubborn country tam'd, her rocks, her dens,
Her floods, her seas, her ill-submitting sons;
And while the fierce Barbarian he subdued,
To more exalted soul he rais'd the man.
Ye shades of ancient heroes, ye who toil'd
Through long successive ages to build up
A labouring plan of state, behold at once
The wonder done! behold the matchless prince,
Who left his native throne, where reign'd till then
A mighty shadow of unreal power;

Who greatly spurn'd the slothful pomp of courts ;
And, roaming every land, in every port
His sceptre laid aside, with glorious hand
Unwearied plying the mechanic tool,
Gather'd the seeds of trade, of useful arts
Of civil wisdom and of martial skill.
Charg'd with the stores of *Europe* home he goes !
Then cities rise amid th' illumin'd waste ;
O'er joyless deserts smiles the rural reign ;
Far-distant flood to flood is social join'd ;
Th' astonish'd *Euxine* hears the *Baltic* roar ;
Proud navies ride on seas that never foam'd
With daring keel before ; and armies stretch
Each way their dazzling files, repressing here
The frantic *Alexander* of the North,
And awing there stern *Othman's* shrinking sons.
Sloth flies the land, and *ignorance* and *vice*,
Of old dishonour proud : it glows around
Taught by the *royal hand* that rous'd the whole
One scene of arts, of arms, of rising trade :
For what his wisdom plann'd, and power enforc'd,
More potent still, his great example shew'd.

M O S C O W.

MOSCOW will serve to all posterity as a monument of national pride, and a sacrifice for the honour of the country; a sacrifice, such as the annals of history do not present us. She will rise as a phoenix from her ashes with increased splendour and glory! Still the remembrance of her ruin will be as interesting to every man, as they will be dear and sacred to every Russian.

"Our arrival at Moscow," says Mr. Coxe, "was announced to us at the distance of six miles by the spires of the steeples. They arose above an eminence which terminated the long avenue which cut across the forest. Two or three miles further on we ascended that eminence, from whence the most enchanting scene struck our view. It was that immense city which is extended in the shape of a crescent, and presents innumerable churches, towers, gilded spires, domes of edifices painted green, red, and white, which glisten with the sun, and dazzle the sight."

Moscow became the capital of the Russian empire and the residence of the monarchs about the commencement of the fourteenth century. It is situated in longitude $55^{\circ} 26' 43''$, latitude $55^{\circ} 45' 20''$. It is about six hundred leagues from Paris, three hundred and forty from Vienna, three hundred and fifty from Constantinople, and two hundred and fifty from Stockholm. It is nearly eight leagues in circumference, which renders it the largest city of Europe; but the greater part of the houses being only of one or two stories, and having large gardens and spacious court-yards, its population is not equal to its extent. According to the most correct calculations lately made, this capital contained about 450,000 inhabitants; which number diminishes by several thousands during every summer season.

In the time of the Czar Michael, Moscow contained about two thousand churches. This number seems extraordinary; but it must be understood that every rich nobleman would have a church in his own house. This number was subsequently much reduced: so that lately there were only three hundred and fourteen, exclusive of six for foreign worship, and twenty-four convents. Moscow contained one hundred and fourteen large streets, four hundred and sixty-three bye-streets, seventeen bridges, eight imperial palaces,

lakes, twenty-two city gates, and one hundred and fifty-eight manufactories.

This city is situated in the centre of the empire, and is environed by the most abundant and fertile provinces, which furnish it with all kinds of provisions and necessaries at the lowest rate. Its situation is elevated, beautiful and dry. Besides the two rivers *Moskwa* and *Tarousa*, it has a supply of fresh water from an aqueduct of fifteen miles in extent; a work worthy ancient Rome*. Its climate is pure and healthy. Earthquakes and other scourges of nature are unknown to it.

Moscow is divided into four parts, each of which has its name:—

1. The Kremlin, or the fortress.
2. *Kitai-gorod*, which, in the Tartarian tongue, signifies the central city; being situated between the Kremlin and the *White-Town*. It is encompassed by walls, formerly painted red, and was defended by twelve square towers and a ditch. These were constructed by John Vassilievitch the second.

Amongst the chief edifices and establishments
in

* This aqueduct was begun by Catherine II., and completed by Alexander.

in this part of the city, were remarked—1st, the *Monastery of Ikonospasky*, where there was a college, in which were taught Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Russian, French, Theology, and Philosophy, to such as are destined for the church; 2d, the *Mint*, where formerly lived the family of *Romanoff*; 3d, *Gastinoy-Dvor*, or the Commercial Square, which is composed of upwards of ten thousand shops and stores, built of brick, with arches, in 1765. Every kind of merchandize had here its own row of shops, which had its name; for instance, *Silversmith Row*, *Drapers'*, *Shoemakers'*, &c. &c. It was a sort of labyrinth, from which a stranger would find it difficult to extricate himself. To these edifices belong two immense squares, one of which was constantly full of people, and somewhat resembled the Forum of Rome. 4th, Peter the Great established here silk manufactures in the building anciently destined for the ambassadors. 5th, there was also in this part a botanic garden, the granary, and the salt magazine.

3. *Belloy-gorod*, or *White-town*. This part of the city encompassed the other two quarters and has its name from the white walls which surround it, and which were raised in 1587. It was here that all the most opulent nobles of the empire had their residence, and one beheld the magni-

magnificent palaces of the Russian lords with admiration. Here were entire streets composed of these edifices, where the extreme contrasts seen in other parts of Moscow were not observable. Here were also an infinite number of public institutions, as great in their object, as grand in their appearance. For instance: First, the *University*, founded in 1755 by the Empress Elizabeth, where were taught all the languages and sciences on the same plan as those of the most celebrated universities in the world. To this university belonged two academies, a foundry of printing types, a printing office, a library, a chemical laboratory, a hall for philosophical apparatus, a cabinet of minerals, an amphitheatre, a botanic garden, and several learned societies. Second, the *City Dispensary*, which was esteemed to equal the best in Europe.

4. *Zemlianoy-gorod*, or the *Land-town*, encompasses the three others, from which it is separated by a rampart of earth, which the Czar Theodore caused to be raised in 1591. Access was had to it formerly by thirty-four wooden gates, whereof only two had lately remained. Amongst the number of public edifices in this part of the capital, the foundling hospital, built where in former times stood the gardens of Czar Basilius, holds the first rank, as well for its beauty as for its utility, and commands the admiration of all. Here more than

six thousand orphans constantly receive an asylum and support, and become good citizens or brave soldiers, according to their dispositions.

The city of Moscow is environed by thirty suburbs, which are wholly united with the city, amongst which the German was the most considerable. In this stood the imperial palace, built by General Lefort, where Peter the Second resided and died; and also the *General Hospital*, built by Peter the Great in 1606. To these establishments this Monarch annexed a medical school, and several others for surgery, botany, drawing and Latin. There was an academy furnished with anatomical preparations and some monstrous *Fætus*.

Besides this hospital there were six others at Moscow, where the infirm, of whatever nation they might be, were attended at the expense of the government. Moreover, there were two hospitals erected by the beneficence of two nobles of Moscow: one by *Prince Galitzin*, and the other by *Count Sheremetoff*. Never did two individuals bequeath to humanity such monuments, of which their fellow citizens might truly boast. Upwards of two hundred paupers were attended gratis. There they were alleviated, as unfortunate men ought to be by their brethren, and as sacred hospitality requires. Those buildings were magnificent

nificent and the architecture superb. There were also funds belonging to these hospitals, from which annual distributions were made amongst necessitous families. The Prince Galitzin spent the greatest part of his life out of Russia, and died at Vienna, where he passed several years as ambassador; but his heart always belonged to his native country, and he embellished the ancient capital of Russia with this monument of humanity.

The inhabitants of Moscow have always testified their patriotism and their zeal, by seconding the beneficent designs of their sovereign, with respect to his magnanimity in promoting the public institutions. They afford more brilliant examples than any other country in their voluntary sacrifices of this kind; and we ought to add, that this very patriotism is manifested in all parts of the empire, without exception to any however remote.

Amongst the establishments formed by private gentlemen for public utility; and which may do honour both to the age and their country, there appeared at the distance of five miles from Moscow, a botanic garden, belonging to Count Razounovsky. We may boldly assert that this garden was the most complete in Europe; and that all the known plants in the world were collected there. The most rare and delicate of the tro-

pic flourished there in all their beauty, the same as in their native climate. The proprietor spared no expense to improve them. He has correspondents in all countries, and the annual support of this establishment cost him upwards of fifty thousand roubles. A society was lately incorporated at Moscow, under the title of *Physiographic*, consisting of the best botanists known in the world; the object of which is to make discoveries in this science, and publish them.

The number of *libraries*, *collections of pictures*, and of *prints*, *coins*, and *antiquities*, the *cabinets* of *natural history* and *philosophical apparatus* at Moscow, in the possession of *private persons*, were testimonials of their noble taste for the fine arts, and their improvement in the sciences. Some of these cabinets excelled those of many sovereigns. Among the pictures, were found originals of Raphael, Reubens, Corregio, and a great number of other celebrated old and modern artists. These galleries were accessible to all: particularly strangers. Perhaps England alone may rival Russia in the encouragement of artists; it is on this account that it was regarded as a country of resource. An artist, who is unsuccessful in other parts, repairs directly to Moscow; here he finds many ways of being useful, and of promoting his fortune.

To

To these fine qualities of the Muscovians, we must annex that of hospitality. This virtue, so celebrated amongst the ancients, is exercised by them in all its extent. It only suffices to be a stranger, to insure a good and cordial reception. *He is sure not to be looked upon as troublesome; nor does sordid interest mix with that liberal disposition, which induces men to regard each other as brethren, and to treat each other as friends.* The host does not think himself generous; hospitality is not at Moscow looked upon as alms: it is an exchange of attention and gratitude. A stranger introduced to one respectable family at Moscow, becomes the favourite of the public. Often travellers were not permitted to remain at the taverns*: their acquaintances make them an offer of their house, services, and even their carriages.

In speaking of Moscow, we may in some measure, consider ourselves as speaking of the whole empire, for this capital was the cradle of Russia; the manners and habits of its inhabitants were looked upon as a general law, and influenced all minds and hearts.

The proprietor over whose ground you pass in
Russia,

* This was the cause that taverns at Moscow, were inferior to those of other European capitals.

Russia, thinks it his duty to protect you, and render you every service. To obviate every charge of partiality on this subject, we shall insert, in his own words, the observations of Sir R. K. Porter, an English traveller, on his arrival at Moscow.—

" On delivering our letters of introduction, we
" were welcomed with all the courtesies of friend-
" ship; and all the first salutations were made to
" forget by the true politeness of this generous
" people, *that we were strangers*. I have heard
" it said, that hospitality was a mark of barba-
" rism. On what this opinion is grounded, I can-
" not guess, but certainly it had not its founda-
" tion at Moscow; for I never saw, in any part
" of the world, such general polished manners as
" in this city. Their hospitality appears to me to
" arise from a confidence in the friend who gives
" the introduction, that he will not recommend
" any person unworthy of their notice. Not doubt-
" ing this, their benevolence hesitates not to re-
" ceive the introduced with kindness; and from
" their love of society, if he prove agreeable, he
" soon finds himself on the most easy and plea-
" sant terms with a large and elegant acquaint-
" ance." It is proper to add, that this love of hos-
" pitality and benevolence is common to all classes
at Moscow. *Usages*, in some measure, discover
to us the dispositions of the human heart. It is
usual for merchants at Moscow, before opening
their

their shops, first to buy bread and distribute it amongst the poor. The rich ordinarily send on festivals, clothing and provisions to the jails.

Doctor Clarke says, That the Russian sovereigns, not daring to take up a lodging within the walls of Moscow, when they visit that city, reside at the palace of Petrovsky, at the distance of four versts from it. I believe the Doctor has taken this notion from the custom which the Russian sovereigns have, of remaining in that palace four days, at the epoch of their coronation, until the preparations for their entrance into that capital are completed, which is always attended with the greatest pomp. The whole remainder of the time appropriated to the ceremony, and to the *fêtes* which accompany it, is spent by them at the palace of the Kremlin, in the heart of Moscow.

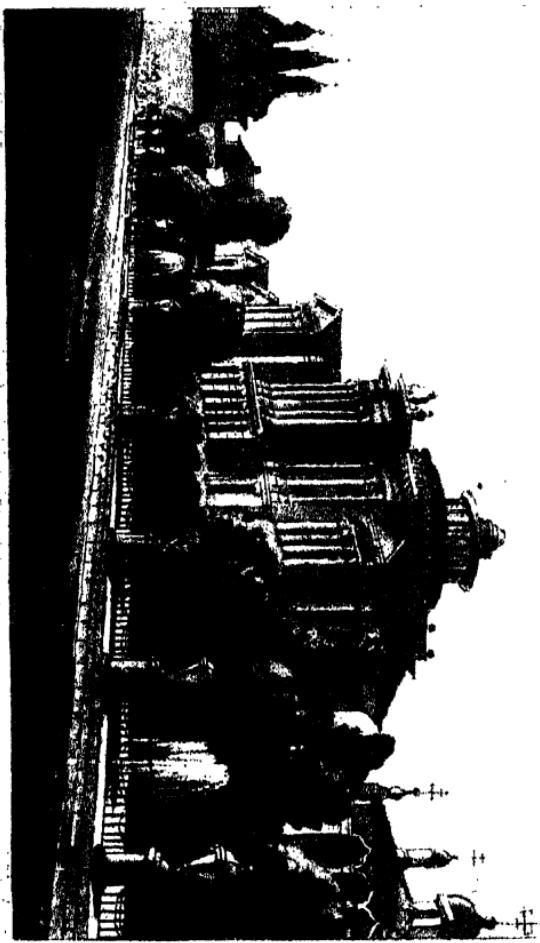
On the contrary, the visits of the Russian sovereigns to Moscow, are always received with extacy by the inhabitants, and as a kind of particular favour. We were ocular witnesses of the reception given by the Muscovians to their beloved sovereign Alexander in 1809. The thunders of their transports of joy, did not proceed from dread or from orders; but from the bottom of their hearts. The Emperor entered the city on horseback, with some of his suite. He was pressed in such a man-

ner

ner by the crowd, that he was necessitated to proceed at a slow pace, and even sometimes to stop. He did not keep off his subjects by formidable guards, but, sure of their love, he appeared in the crowd as a good father amidst his children. Several of the people flew to embrace him—kiss his robes—even the print of his horse's feet in the snow. The Emperor appeared much affected by this proof of the general affection: his eyes were bathed in tears, and assuredly in that moment, the heart of Alexander repeated anew the *great oath*, to promote the happiness of the Russians, so justly entitled to his love.

The edifice represented in the annexed engraving, was the mansion of Mr. Paschkoff, at Moscow. It will afford a just idea of the taste of the private palaces of the nobles in that capital; and its description will make known their mode of living, and their magnificence.

It is almost twenty-five years since this palace was built. It comprehended within itself all the conveniences and delights of life. This little garden, situated on a pretty high eminence, presented a type of the garden of *Eden*. Every little path conducted you to somewhat fascinating or surprising; those water-spouts in constant play, refresh the air and overflow their marble basons, enlivened



enlivened with water-fowl of the most beautifully variegated plumage. In fine, those lamps illuminated every night, exhibited a scene at once majestic and enchanting. There belonged to this garden an extensive green-house, which furnished the proprietor in the heart of winter, with the fruits and vegetables of the summer of warmer climates. In one wing of this edifice, was the riding academy; and in the other the theatre, for the particular amusement of the owner. The actors, the musicians and the dancers were serfs*

of

* The greater part of these domestics are from the country, and are the slaves of the nobles.

The mention of slaves, causes the philanthrope to shudder, and to sympathize with their fate. To reconcile these lovers of mankind, we must observe, that they are much deceived if they compare the Russian slaves with those of the American colonies. Many are the instances of our slaves refusing their liberty; and under their slavery they are much more free and independent, than the subjects of other governments. A peasant by paying ten shillings a year to his master, is exonerated from all other imposts—is quite independent—often times does not know his master—and even is richer than he.

Truly, there are masters, who would abuse their power over the serfs by ill treatment; but the government has always an attentive eye to this important object.

It is customary for Russians to travel to foreign countries, taking their own servants with them: there are but few examples of their desertion.

We behold, in the United States of America, natives of all the nations of Europe, yet scarcely do we find a single Russian established there. To seek the best state is natural to mankind; and the Russian slave could easily find opportunities to escape from his own land and go to live in free countries.

There

of Mr. Paschkoff. The luxury of these two objects, certainly must excite the curiosity and astonishment of every stranger. There were several families at Moscow, who had their private theatres, and almost every distinguished one, had its chapel of musicians. Moreover, many kept upwards of a hundred horses in their stables. These circumstances increased the number of domestics: so that there were some families in that city, who maintained to the amount of 600 servants, solely employed in the service of the house, and lodged there. Amongst them are mechanics of every kind, from the painter and watch-maker, to the blacksmith and chimney-sweep, who commonly attend to nothing but their professions.

The feasts of the opulent Russian nobles are worthy of a sovereign. We shall not speak of the feasts given to the Empress Catharine II. by Prince Potemkin; nor of those of Mr. Narichkin, to the Emperor Alexander: where all was astonishing—all enchantment—and to which, the feast

There are many striking examples of the attachment of Russian serfs to the country of their birth, which clearly show, that they are not so unhappy as foreigners represent them.—Why did the Russian peasants not only not accept the call of Bonaparte to freedom, but reject it with indignation and contempt?

feasts of Lucullus alone might be compared* but let us cite, for example, the very words of the King of Poland, who speaks in the following manner in his Journal, of the Fête, given him by *Count Cheremetoff*, in his castle, seventeen miles from Moscow.—“ On arriving there, the king examined the castle and the garden: on all sides was luxury and the most exquisite taste; it wore the air of an imperial palace, not of that of a private man. He was conducted to the theatre, the players were the domestics of the proprietor; the costume was elegant and just. The diadem of brilliants of an actress was estimated at 100,000 roubles. Many of the dancers performed their parts with great address. After the opera, the King was introduced to the other apartments; the floors of which were covered with scarlet velvet. During the ball and the supper, at which more than three hundred persons attended, the whole garden, and environs of the castle were so illuminated, that the appearance was like that of a great conflagration. The very road to the city of Moscow was lighted by flambeaux.”

This

* Prince Potemkin, in order not to fatigue the Empress in ascending the stairs, had caused an inclining floor to be made, whereby one ascended insensibly to the second story. Mr. Narishskin, in his fête at his country house, by artificial fire, represented an eruption of Vesuvius² in a very natural and striking manner.

This King was not less astonished with the riches of the palace of Prince *Bezborodko* at Moscow. There are his own words :—“ Many travellers, who had an opportunity of seeing the palace of St. Cloud, when it was completely repaired for the reception of the Queen of France, affirms, that in the palace of Prince Bezborodko at Moscow, there was more magnificence and taste. The gilt ornaments of the chairs were wrought at Vienna, and the superb bronze was purchased from the French emigrants. In the dining-room, there was a sideboard constructed like a staircase, whose steps were covered with dishes, and cups of massy gold, silver, coral, &c.

The greatest part of the families at Moscow was composed of those patriots, who, after having sacrificed the half of their lives in the service of their country* and their Emperor, flocked to this capital to repose on their trophies, and spend the residue of their days in the delights of freedom, society, and friendship.

Winter, at Moscow, was the centre of the pleasures of the empire, which attracted people from

* Every noble in Russia is bound to serve his country: otherwise, neither the celebrity of his family, nor his riches, would procure him respect from his fellow citizens.

from all parts. There were many families who repaired thither from a distance of six hundred miles to pass this season. The gallant militaries, having received the Emperor's permission, flew thither, to forget their toils amidst the dissipations of the city. Thus then we behold those brilliant chevalric carousals, composed of nobles, which filled the spectators with admiration, and at the same time were intended to accustom the youth to corporeal exercises and military evolutions, those pleasant parties*, those cavalcades, those *dejeunées dansantes, des gaités*; in fine, those balls which commanded the admiration of all travellers. Here let us cite the words of Doctor Clarke, respecting the balls of the nobles; he it is known was not *very gracious to Russia*. “The “coup d’œil upon entering the grand saloon, is “inconceivable. During the years that I have “been accustomed to spectacles of a similar na-“ture, in different parts of the continent, I have “never seen any thing with which I might com-“pare it. The company consisted of near two “thousand persons, nobles only being admitted. “The dresses were the most sumptuous that can “be

* The variety in the equipages at Moscow, was as great as that of the edifices. The coach and six is the privilege of persons occupying the grade of generals. Others attend these cavalcades with a coach and four, and some with but a single pair.

“ be imagined ; and what is more remarkable,
“ they were conceived in the purest taste, and
“ were in the highest degree becoming. This
“ ball of the nobles took place every Tuesday,
“ and it may be truly said—*Europe has not be-
“ held its equal!*”

Now let us render due tribute to the sweetness and beauty of our ladies of Moscow—a tribute so congenial to our hearts ; and in order that the reader may not suspect us of partiality or exaggeration, we will again quote the same *impartial* Doctor Clarke :—“ The women of France and “ England may go to Moscow in order to see “ their own fashions set off to advantage. The “ modes of dress in London and Paris are gene- “ rally blended together by the ladies of Moscow, “ who select from either what may become them “ best, and *in justice to their charms*, it must be “ confessed—*no country in the world can boast* “ *superior beauty*”

If to beauty, accomplishments and amiableness, a temple be due, its proper site must certainly be at Moscow, which has now become also the favourite seat of the fine arts; the arts, which are indebted to the accomplishments and amiableness of the fair sex for protection: so that if their natural vivacity—their cheerfulness—their affability became

became the delight of society; on the other hand, the desire to please, to attract the good graces of those perfect beings, forms the Russian youth, and animates them with zeal to acquire more accomplishments and to dedicate themselves to the study of the sciences, which are the source of amiability

We coincide in opinion with an observer, that public walks display the progress of fine taste in a capital city, and the civilization of its inhabitants. Why, for instance, do not the savage people of Asia like them? yet they were the glory of polished Greece, where the inhabitants delighted to assemble in the sweet liberty and mixture of all ranks; where men, illustrious by their birth or office, were not ashamed to walk together with the lower class, and enjoy with them the fine summer evenings; where was to be found that harmony of mind, which is usually the result of general civilization. Moscow was as rich in its public walks as all the capitals in Europe, and none of them have walks comparable to the ponds of *Presnetskie*. Here nature and man have vied with each other to astonish and surprise: and truly this walk might afford a just idea of the garden of Armida.

Besides the palaces at Moscow, the nobles have others in the vicinity of the capital, or in the provinces,

provinces, many of which are not inferior to the former in richness and splendour. On the approach of the fine season they repair to them, in order to inhale the sweet air of the country ; and the majority of their domestics accompany them. It is this circumstance which causes the great difference between the number of the inhabitants at Moscow in summer and in winter.

Run over the environs of Moscow, and you shall find rich castles, and picturesque and happy sites. The fine gardens in the English style are calculated to surprise a Lord of Great Britain. Those regular gardens, so contrary to nature, and which have no effect upon the imagination, already begin to disappear.

The government of this city and the province was generally granted to the marshals of the empire, as a recompense for their long and faithful services to the country. The appointment of Count *Rastopchin* to that eminent office is an evident mark of the Emperor Alexander's particular benevolence and attention to the citizens of Moscow ; for the Count was the favourite of all the inhabitants. Count Rastopchin having rendered signal services to his country in the reign of the late Emperor Paul as vice-chancellor of the empire, spent the last ten years of his life in retirement,

retirement, and in the bosom of his family at Moscow. There, by his great virtues and noble qualities, he conciliated the love and esteem of all classes. He is about fifty years of age: his heroic figure, his majestic and commanding looks, seem to be the seal with which heaven distinguishes its chosen people.

The true Russian, with an ardent zeal, seeks the vestiges of the antiquity of his country; and his mind is exalted by those traits of ancient *glory, power and grandeur*, which he discovers in the traditions of the Russian empire.

The magnificence of the Czars of Moscow is mentioned in the writings of all foreigners, who have been there on the embassies of former times. The secretary of Lord Carlisle, the English ambassador from Charles II. to the Czar Alexis, is plain in his descriptions until he speaks of the audience with the Czar; when, contrary to his will, he is forced to raise his tone:—"It happened to us," says he, "as it happens to those who make a transition from twilight, and are suddenly struck by the resplendent rays of the sun. Scarcely could our eyes endure the brilliancy of the court. It seemed that the lustre of the precious gems vied with the rays of the sun: such was their influence that we were lost amidst the resplendence and grandeur

grandeur. The Czar himself represented the *brilliant sun, dazzling the eyes of the spectators.*"

Our traditions also inform us, that the Polish ambassadors were struck with amazement and envy, at sight of the splendour of the court of Czar Boris Godunoff. The magnificence with which this monarch received the Danish Prince John, the betrothed of his daughter, surpasses belief. The service for one hundred and forty guests, was all of massy gold; the one hundred and forty young nobles of the court, who served at table, three times shifted their rich attire in course of the entertainment.

The magnificence of the Russian ambassadors sent to other European courts, was not less admired by strangers. During the residence of the English embassy at Moscow in the time of the Czar John Basilievitch, two embassies were sent to the King of Poland. One thousand five hundred select warriors attired in golden tissue, mounted on beautiful coursers richly caparisoned attended the suite of the embassy; and were followed by one hundred steeds white as the driven snow, which were led by silver chains instead of reins for the use of the officers.

According to the custom of Eastern nations,
the

the ambassadors were wont always to appear before the Czar with rich presents, and in return received others still more costly. The Chams of Tartary, through mere cupidity, often sent ambassadors to the court of the Czars. During the residence of O'Leary at Moscow, there came seventy-two envoys from the Crimea, at different times. On the audience they appeared in a very plain dress, but they left it cloathed in very rich robes, and loaded with presents.

The Czar, having received advice of the approach of a foreign ambassador to the Russian frontiers, sent out to meet and conduct him to the capital a company of his guards, called *Strelzi*, and commissaries charged with furnishing necessaries, and providing for all the wishes of the embassy; so that the ambassador was not under the necessity of defraying any expenses during the whole time he remained on the confines of the empire.

The whole city of Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars on the 24th May, 1578; and by the French in 1812.

After the destructive battle of Borodino, where a hundred and five thousand Russian patriots were engaged against a hundred and thirty thou-

sand soldiers, the choicest troops of all Europe, and commanded by the most experienced and renowned generals of the present age, at the head of whom was the most fortunate, the most rash, and the most arrogant of leaders; that battle, unparalleled in the annals of history, where the excess of moral and physical force was put to the proof and exhausted; the wisest manœuvres, the most skilful and best combined tactics displayed; the most desperate attacks, and the boldest enterprizes witnessed; where more than a thousand pieces of cannon were constantly working death and destruction; the battle in which 100,000 men, killed and put *hors de combat*, were the results of the slaughter; in which the Russians remained masters of the field;—it was after that battle that the wise chief of the Russian troops resolved to permit the entrance of the French army into Moscow, and himself to retire twenty miles beyond that capital.

He exclaimed, “The loss of Moscow is not ‘the loss of the Empire!’” Far from that:—“the taking of Moscow” was the secret watch-word among the Russians; the watch-word which foretold disgrace and peril to the French: the city’s flames, seem to have been the electric fire in the hearts of the Russians, the dawn of their deliverance, and the funeral torch for the invaders.

How

How much did the audacious Bonaparte deceive himself, when in approaching Moscow and decrying its spires and minarets, he exclaimed to his followers—"Behold the end of your campaign—its gold and its plenty are yours." He did not sufficiently know the Emperor Alexander and his courageous people!

It is true that the warehouses and the shops were set on fire by order of the governor Rastopchin; that the desperate Russians, in order to save their wives and their children from pollution, set fire to places of refuge, and found a surer asylum in their flames. It is also true, that the French, by order of their leader, proceeded systematically in the destruction of that capital: fixing the particular day for every regiment to plunder, and marking out the quarters which were to be set on fire at fixed periods. They destroyed with cannon-shot, the houses and other edifices built with too much solidity, hurling balls against them amidst the flames.

It was then after the excesses of horror, infamy, and extravagance*, which make human nature shudder, excesses which no pen can describe, and which

* There has even been found at Moscow a medal which Bonaparte caused to be struck, with this inscription—"Napoleon the Great, Emperor of the French, Czar of Muscovy, King of Italy, &c. &c. &c."

which hell only could devise, that, covered with contempt, shame, and the anathemas of the universe, those vain, those haughty conquerors of Russia fled precipitately from Moscow; and losing all that they had pillaged, lost also their miserable lives under the arms of the Russians, in the snows of the country they had invaded.

“Moscow has ceased to exist:” said the atrocious Napoleon! Yes, it ceased to exist: but for the eternal glory of the Russians and the perpetual opprobrium of its destroyers. A Muscovite on his return has not found his house; but, with its ruins, he has gained the right of boasting, that he loved to sacrifice all that was dear and sacred to him, to save his honour and his liberty.

The twelve hundred pieces of cannon taken from the French, during their flight from Moscow to the frontiers of Russia, are to form a monument which will perpetuate to immortality the invincible courage, which repelled the outrage; and will commemorate the favour of the Almighty. The pyramid, formed of these cannons, will be erected in the centre of Moscow, surmounted with a bronze statue of Victory, and with a simple and energetic inscription in Russian:—“**A FACT***.”

Onward from Borodino’s furious fray,
Napoleon holds his undisputed way;

* The Empress Catherine caused to be struck a medal commemorative of the famous battle of Chesmea, with the same inscription. It is here

Though blood of Frenchmen swells the battle-tide,
 Outward he moves in all a victor's pride ;
 And, while the Russians, masters of the field,
Permit the progress which they scorn to yield,
 Vainly elate, and impiously bold,
 He enters Moscow and her kingly hold ;
 Nor shrinks to view the sign which shew'd it won—
 The sun of Austerlitz—*a setting sun!*
 What, though the patriots make one struggle more,
 Another slaughter, and the struggle's o'er.
 “ Soldiers,” he cries, “ now triumph and repose,
 “ Change the grim scenes of war to pageant shows ;
 “ Here will we rest while Winter spends his breath,
 “ And dictate peace, or frame new schemes of death.”

While he triumphant moves thro' Moscow's streets,
 And *unbid sacrifice* his triumph greets ;
 Its smoke ascends o'er Moscow's hallow'd mound ;
 The glitt'ring pinacles with flames are crown'd ;
 Driven by the wind a blazing deluge pours,
 And huts and palaces alike devours ;
 By its dread light the tyrant counts his host,
 But, dare he now repeat his cheering boast ?
 Shall they rest here till Winter's reign be o'er ?—
 In Moscow rest they ?—“ Moscow is no more !”

That Autumn sun, which beam'd on thee at night,
 Shews, in the morrow's dawn, an alter'd sight ;

In

here very well applied to this monument formed by French cannon, which are the sole remains of the army of 500,000 of their best soldiers; the most formidable army of the enemy that ever was raised, has been destroyed, annihilated by the Russians, Moscow burnt——all this might appear a fable—but—it was, A FACT!

In one vast ruin while the flames expire,
The anxious squadrons quench the slumb'ring fire.

Still thy unbending mind subdues its pain,
And scorns to flee, yet shudders to remain.
But, lo ! with sudden, dark, resistless pace,
The anarch Winter speeds his southward race :
Frenchmen, who breath'd of late their " native" air,
Shrink in the frost that crisps their stiffening hair.
Their chief, appall'd at Heaven's resistless ire,
Bids a retreat ;—then homeward they retire,
In spirit mutinous ; chagrin'd and slow,
To seek, not find, their " clime" of Fontainbleau.

He fled the first—a herald of mischance,
To tell his cruel coward tale in France ;
Leaving his host to bleach in Russian snows,
Or grace the triumph of their patriot foes ;
He told the tale to France, and she, with strains
Of venal plaudit, shook her heavy chains.

Be this the burden of that heartless cheer,
This phrase that tells his short and strange career—
" The meteor star that late o'er Europe past,
" Not to shed blessings—but to scorch and blast ;
" The star which bore Napoleon's boasted spell,
" Arose at Lodi—and, in Moscow fell."



MEMOIR OF THE COZAKS.

A VERY extraordinary phenomenon took place near Orembourg, in Siberia, in the year 1810. A Cozak going into the forest to cut wood, was attacked by a monstrous tiger, which lay hid in the snow. The horse, overwhelmed with despair, sunk under the fangs of the monster ; which tore open his chest and back, and also broke the left arm of the rider : when all at once the tiger fell, and at the same instant expired, as if thunder-struck. He was killed by the single blow of a hatchet, with which the Cozak with amazing presence of mind clove his skull.* His skin was sent to St. Petersburg, and preserved at the hermitage, among the curiosities.

It is extraordinary that a tiger, an inhabitant of the torrid-zone, should have been found in frozen Siberia. Different conjectures were formed, but it is to be supposed, that he had been driven
by

* Mr. Orlovsky, a Russian painter, represented with great success and truth, this terrible scene, in a very fine picture.

by some other wild monsters from China or Bengal. The Emperor granted to the brave Cozak a medal of distinction, and a very liberal pension.

The Cozaks of Siberia are the offspring of those who were transported thither from the Don, by order of the Empress Catherine. They inhabit the villages and towns, and perform the general police duty in Siberia. They are usually the interpreters for the aborigines of that country ; and many of them understand several of the dialects of those people. They are also the best guides over the dreary forests and deserts of Siberia.

It will not be irrelevant in this place to give a general idea of the Cozaks, who have become so interesting and celebrated by the campaigns of the last two years. The Cozaks are descendants of the ancient warlike colonies of the Sclavonians, and are known in history under the name of *Vssad-niki*, or cavalry. Before the Christian era, they inhabited the borders of the *Desna*, the *Dneper*, and even those of the *Danube*. They are now distinguished by different names, which are derived from the places of their residence ; such as the Cozaks of the *Don*, of *Ural*, of the *Black Sea*, of *Little Russia*, *Zaporogskie*, *Tchuguevskie*, &c. &c. But they all resemble each other in manners and character, are mutually descended from the same people

people, speak the same language, which is Russian, profess the same religion, that of the Greek Church, from which the efforts of the Catholic missionaries have not been able to seduce them ; and in short, differ scarcely in any thing but dress.

They have been at all times distinguished for their military exploits. They formed the best, and indeed the principal part of the flower of the army of *John Sobiesky*, when he raised the siege of Vienna, which would certainly have fallen into the hands of the Turks, had he not vanquished and driven them back. The celebrated *Yermak*, with a handful of Cozaks, subdued in 1580, one half of Asia—the vast Siberia.

In 1653, the Cozaks placed themselves under the protection of Alexis Michailovitch, Czar of Russia ; since which time, instead of being subjects sometimes to Poland and at other times to Turkey, they have been faithfully attached to Russia, have rendered her eminent services, and at all times proved themselves *the true descendants of the victorious Slavonians*. As they occupy chiefly the frontiers of Russia, they serve as a barrier against the sudden incursions of the plundering tribes near Mount Caucasus and the neighbouring countries,

During a long time, the Zaporozkie Cozaks

lived together without admitting women into their community, and like the Knights of Malta, esteemed it their duty to attack and ravage the Turkish territories. The name of *Zascka* their capital, produces to this day terror among the Mussulmen.

The Russian government has ever left to the Cozaks the liberty of making their own laws, and governing themselves. They therefore form a sort of Republic, and choose their own officers, except the first Hetman, who is named by the Emperor, and whose residence is fixed at Tcherkask. The gallant General Platoff is at present their chief. This venerable veteran of Suvoroff, nursed in the camp, and grown grey in the field of battle and victory, enjoys their affection, as well as the consideration of the Emperor, and the esteem of every Russian.

The Cozaks were for a long time on an equality with each other. From the highest to the lowest, every individual enjoyed the same share of land, the same privilege, and an equal liberty ; and the only titles to authority were the affections, the confidence, and the choice of their companions. It often happened that the same person who commanded in chief in the first campaign, performed the duties of a common warrior in the second. In the year 1770 distinctions were first created among them;

them; for the services which they had rendered against the Turks: their chiefs received the rank of officers of the line, and were decorated with military orders. All those who are in active service have the same pay as the other troops of Russia.

The Don Cozaks are the most numerous. They inhabit the vast and fertile plains along the banks of the Don, the Dneiper, and Medveditz. They live in large villages in content and abundance, are good cultivators, passionately fond of horses, of which they keep great numbers; and have numerous flocks. The population of the Don Cozaks amounts to 300,000 souls: their troops are divided into 119 colonies or regiments. A fine regiment of Cozak-guards has been formed by the present Emperor, of the finest looking men amongst them, who are very richly dressed.

The age at which every Cozak is deemed fit for service, is between fifteen and fifty. During that period, his name is registered, and he is always bound to be ready to march at the orders of the sovereign, or when his turn arrives, and to equip and arm himself at his own expense; bringing with him two horses. Although the Cozaks supply at this moment to the Russian Empire only fifty thousand men, they can in case of necessity easily double that number. From the earliest age, the young Cozak

Cozak delights in being on horseback, in exercising his body, and accustoming it to every movement; to bend under his horse at full-gallop, to manage his pike, which like the tomahawk of the Indians, is his constant companion, and to shoot at a mark with his gun or bow. On holidays, this last is the occupation of the young and old; and sometimes whole regiments meet to enjoy this favourite diversion. The Cozak horses have a heavy and worn-down air, but are quite the reverse when in action; none are then more lively, bold, strong, and easy to manage. A Cozak will leap with his horse from the steepest bank, into a deep and rapid river, will traverse dry and burning sands, or cross the thickest forests covered with snow. The best disciplined cavalry, mounted on the finest coursers, have never been able to sustain their first shock; and when pursued are always overtaken by them. The Cozaks' manner of attack, though often experienced by the enemy, has until now produced in every instance the effect of novelty: when they attack a regiment of regular cavalry, they advance in a body at full-gallop, and on a near approach to the enemy, they suddenly diverge, or (if we may use the expression) explode, and while a band of their choicest and bravest lancers pierce the front, the main body, however confused in appearance, act in concert, attack both flanks, put the enemy into disorder, and speedily overwhelm them.

The

The first Cozak you meet, will offer to sell you the horse of any Turkish trooper, whom he may distinguish at a distance before the enemy's camp. He will set out with the rapidity of lightning, and will certainly reach and bring him to you*. As a proof of the great attachment that exists between a Cozak and his horse; the following occurrence, that happened a short time ago, will not be uninteresting. A Cozak had taken a French officer, and whilst in the act of dressing himself in the officer's clothes, whom he had stripped according to custom, the officer watched the moment that the Cozak was endeavouring to force his strong arms through the tight sleeves of his coat, and when he thought his arms sufficiently confined, the officer jumped on the Cozak's horse and galloped off at full speed. The Cozak, instead of running after him, as might have been supposed, remained perfectly quiet, and only whistled twice, upon which the horse instantaneously

* Several anecdotes of this kind are related; but we will content ourselves with repeating what occurred to General Miloradowitch, during the last campaign against the Turks, at his victorious entry into Bucharest. As he was crossing at the head of his troops a part of the city, where the Turks still made a resistance, a Turk mounted on a fine Arabian horse, galloped up and fired a pistol at him. The ball grazed him slightly, but the General, without losing his presence of mind, turned to the nearest Cozak and ordered him to follow the Turk. This was sufficient: the order was instantly executed, and the Turk was brought back a prisoner with his horse.

ously stopped short, and notwithstanding all whipping and spurring would not go further.

Suwaroff shewed his regard for the Cozaks by often assuming their dress, riding horses like theirs, speaking their dialect, and always being accompanied by some of them. He understood too well the art of war, and was too good a judge of military merit, not to have a great partiality for them. He knew that these men, plunderers and even burdensome, unite when reduced to discipline and order, all the good qualities of a soldier: they are brave, dexterous, patient, faithful, full at once of resignation and order, and capable of every species of military service. It is, however, particularly as light troops that they excel; and are of the most importance, when distributed among the infantry, as is the case at present. Their frugality; their disregard to the extremes of heat and cold, which they support night and day in the open air; the smallness of their baggage, which consists only of the clothes they wear; their agility as horsemen and the activity of their horses, which can subsist on any thing that grows; these qualities place the Cozaks among the best troops in the world. Nothing can escape their vigilance. The most secret intentions and movements of the enemy are always anticipated and discovered by the Cozaks, his supplies cut off,

his

his couriers intercepted, his foragers taken. It is with truth and justice that the Prince Royal of Sweden denominated them in his bulletins, *the eyes of the army*. Suwaroff understood this all; he contributed more than any other person to assign them a proper station in the Russian army; and foreigners have more than once experienced the use to which he could apply them. In the late wars since 1778, the Cozaks have proved, in spite of all the prejudices of foreigners, that they can, not only cope with regular troops, but are able to attack the strongest entrenchments, *and mount victoriously to the assault*.

On the retreat of the French from Russia they incessantly harrassed the enemy and never gave him a moment's rest. A handful of Cozaks made a thousand prisoners, entered the towns and fortresses on the very heels of the numerous enemies. For example, a hundred Cozaks traversed the city of Berlin in the presence of some thousands of the French troops, who were under arms. A Cozak carried consternation into the heart of Bonaparte's troops; his very name occasioned a panic*.

* It is related that on one occasion, when a band of French brigands on coming to plunder a Russian village, demanded some cattle from a poor peasant woman whom they met with, she swore that all had been driven by those who came there before them, and that she had only a simple *caza* (a goat) left. With their usual quickness of apprehension they mistook the word *caza*, for Cozak, and the whole body instantly fled in the utmost precipitation and dread.

All that was pillaged by the French at Moscow, all the treasures of that rich capital, fell into the hands of Cozaks. They made immense booty, and even took from that great army, all which they had brought with them from France. At this moment there is more gold and silver to be seen on the banks of the Don than in any other place in Europe. The Cozaks have recently presented through the medium of their worthy Hetman Platoff, fifteen hundred pounds weight of massive silver to the cathedral of Cazan, to be cast into four statues of the Evangelists.

We have thus far considered the Cozaks only as a brave and martial people, and endeavoured to explain their merit and ascertain their relative rank among other military nations. Our impartiality now obliges us to add, that, considered as an enlightened people, they are far from being on a level with the civilized inhabitants of Europe. Limited, however, as is their knowledge, and though the sciences are yet in their infancy among them, they already possess writers and poets. Of these we will mention only *Simeon Klimovsky*, born in 1724, whose manuscript work *On the greatness of Soul and on Truth*, is preserved in the Imperial Library, and contains very noble sentiments and much fine poetry. It is said that he enjoyed among his countrymen, the same esteem and reputation,

putation, which were once possessed by the sages of Greece; that like the inspired Pythia, he delivered in verse his wise counsels to his friends, and that strangers came from all parts to hear him. The song, called—*The Departure of the Cozak*, which is deemed by the ladies so beautiful, and which is translated into several languages, is the composition of Klimovsky, the amiable pupil of nature, but to whom art had unfortunately given no assistance. Under the reign of the Emperor Alexander gymnasiums and schools have been established among the Cozaks, who have been found to possess the happiest dispositions, and an astonishing degree of intelligence*.

* Nature has gifted them with an exquisite sense of sight and hearing, similar to that of the American Indians, who can discover the tracks of their enemies with a surprising sagacity, and from the compared prints of their feet, calculate their numbers and the time of their passing; the Cozak, by applying his ear to the ground, will tell, from the hollow sound, the distance and the number of a body of cavalry,

NEW-CASAN CHURCH.

IN

ST. PETERSBURG

YES, I say, it is worth the trouble of an amateur of the fine arts, to make a voyage to St Petersburg, to view the ninety-five columns of the New-Casan church, each of which is thirty-five feet in height by three and a half in diameter, cut out of one piece of granite, and polished like crystal, with capitals of bronze! These pillars are the only ones of the kind in the world, the only ones that any age, or any country has ever possessed; and if St Petersburg had existed in their time, the Romans certainly would have transported them to the capital of the world. This church is entirely the work of Russian artists after the plan of the Russian architect Woronikin. No foreign hand was laid to it: every part of the structure and all that it contains, from the first nail, to the admirable pictures, bas-reliefs and statues are executed by Russian artists. It was constructed on the model of



of St. Peter's, at Rome, on a reduced scale, and with the indispensable changes, which the Russian form of worship requires *. There necessarily results from these changes a great irregularity in its architecture; but a superb semicircular colonade in the Corinthian order, which surrounds the nave of the church, conceals the defect from the beholder at first sight. Another result is, that the dome, one of the finest ornaments of the church of St. Peter, is too much straitened. The plastic art, and those of architecture and painting, have united to render this magnificent church the greatest ornament of the city of the Czars, and the rich decorations of its interior, covered with a profusion of gold, silver and bronze, have perhaps few equals. Doors and balustrades of embossed silver are always somewhat rare; but what is still more rare and wonderful are the ninety-five columns of granite, of colossal magnitude and each of one solid block, which sustain the body of the church; and also the mosaic pavement, a work of incomparable beauty, composed of the different Russian marbles. Sculpture has here erected, by masterly hands, six colossal statues in bronze, which are

* It must be also remarked, that all the ancient Russian churches had their arched ceilings, which, doubtless, proceeded from the idea we form of the celestial canopy—we know that the greater part of the temples of former ages, such as the Pantheon of Rome, were arched in the interior.

no less remarkable for the design than for the mechanical execution. They decorate the peristyle of the church, and the exterior niches of the nave; there are two immense doors of bronze, on which are sculptured in superb bas-relievo subjects from the old and new Testament; in the interior are some subjects from the gospel, sculptured on stone in magnificent bas-reliefs, and the other ornaments which generally are associated with this style of magnificence such as four apostles, placed at the four corners of the cupola. The interior presents also many fine pictures, three of which are of the highest merit: the one at the top of the dome and in the middle of the vault represents God the Father seated on the throne of the world, and saints and apostles assembled; the other represents Jesus celebrating the Holy Supper in the midst of his Disciples. These two pictures were painted by Mr. Shebueff. The third, which represents the Annunciation, is the work of Mr. Egoroff. The shrine of the Mother of God, to whom this superb church is consecrated, is extremely rich and magnificent. Its jewels are estimated at one million eight hundred thousand roubles. The bust of the Virgin, with the infant Jesus, is entirely covered with sapphires, emeralds, with the largest and most precious brilliants disposed in the most tasteful manner. The aureole, which encircles the head of Mary and of her divine Infant,

as

as well as the principal crown, were peculiarly enchanting and magnificent. This temple contains also two objects worthy of the greatest veneration for a Russian: I may, in truth add, that they are two objects of his pride and his glory! These are the trophies taken from the French during their invasion of Russia; and the ashes of the immortal Kutusoff. It appears as if all those colours pointed toward the centre of the church where his tomb is situated, salute the manes of the hero. It is from this church that after having chaunted the *Te Deum* to the Almighty to implore his august favour toward the cause of the just, that this General departed, to take the command of the Russian army, accompanied by the benediction of the people, of whom he was the favourite and sole hope. It is here that this same grateful people carried his remains, in the midst of his sincerest tears. The procession was sad and solemn, by reason of the grandeur of its ceremonies, but still more, by the sentiments and the expressions of universal regret, which no earthly powers could command, and which belong only to true merit and virtues. The people took the horses from the funeral car—disputed the distinction of carrying this burthen, so precious to all of them, and the air resounded with acclamations of “Our Father, our Benefactor.”

The

The eminent character of the Greek church is toleration : all the Russian sovereigns exercised toleration in the highest degree, and strangers of all countries are employed in the Imperial service, according to their merit and talents, without any regard to their worship. It is a fact, that the Russian capital may boast of celebrating the *Most High* in twelve different languages. Still, in the street of *Nevsky*, where the church here represented is built, are to be found twelve different temples for seven different worships :—two for the Greek, two for the Reformed Church, two Lutheran, one Catholic, one Armenian, one for Jews, and one for the Mahometans. On this account, some travellers call this street by the name of “ Tolerance Street.”

Here it will be to the purpose, to give, in the words of the author of the Fragment on St. Petersburg, a concise and expressive description of the Greek Church, and the effect of its ceremonies.

“ In the Russian churches there are no pews, nor places of distinction ; for, by its principles, all men are equal before God. The same floor receives them, when they prostrate themselves before Him. The decorations of the partition wall, which separates the altar, the *Asylum of the Holy Mysteries*, from the body of the temple, far surpass those

those of the other parts of the church. Gold, jewels, the richest pictures, all concur to strike, to captivate the eyes and imagination of the adorers.

" Nobody except the minister can come into this sacred enclosure; when the ceremonies of divine mysteries are celebrating, no eye can penetrate them. A profound silence reigns at that time.—Only the voice of the minister, prostrated before the altar, is heard. Sometimes he claims the assistance of the prayers of the faithful, and announces the proceedings of the sacrifice—it is accomplished. The principal door of the sanctuary is opened, as if it were by an invisible hand. The sacrament, contained in a rich cup, is presented by the minister to the adoration of the people. His first word, which he pronounces standing at the holy door, is a divine word—*mir vsem!* —peace to all!

" In the Russian churches, the voices of the chaunters only accompany the voice of the priest; these alone compose the harmony of the sacred canticles; and we must confess that no instrument is equal to the human voice*. The simple *Kyrieleison* is a beautiful piece of music, full of sentiment.

* Strangers on their arrival in Russia, ask why there is no music in our churches?—They are told in answer, that instruments having no soul, cannot celebrate the praises of the Eternal!

sentiment. It seizes you, makes all your fibres vibrate, and insensibly disposes you to devotion. The priest, when he appears covered with long drapery, dazzling with gold and jewels, is truly an image of the sovereign pontiff in the sanctuary of the temple of Solomon. His long hair, floating on his shoulders, and separated on his forehead, a beard of double points, present to your eyes the heads of Christ, Aaron, or Moses. The *Centary* and the number of flambeaux, are similar to the ceremonies of the western church ; but the whole of the Oriental is plain, and at the same time more majestic and inspiring. Every thing announces to you the cradle of the holy mysteries, and you discover Jerusalem. This the idea, which the ambassadors sent by the grand Duke Vladimir to examine the different Christian religions, communicated to him on their return. After seeing the different worships of the Germans, Bulgarians, and others, they came to Constantinople, to look at the Greek rites. They saw the grand mass performed by the patriarch in all its splendour ; they heard the chaunting, and their choice was fixed. In their report to the Prince, they said among other things, “ *We cannot express by words, the sublimity of what we saw—these rites surpass all others—we thought we were in heaven.* ”

This street of Nevsky is also the finest in the capital,

capital, as well for its breadth as for the magnificence and splendour of the buildings. In the middle of it, is made a *foot-way*, above a mile in length. This walk is elevated from the pavement, and guarded by a palisade and trees; there are placed also many benches for the convenience of the passengers. In the winter it is a favourite walk of the public of St. Petersburg. At that time you meet every minute different picturesque costumes; and elegant sledges flying with the rapidity of a swallow. At the beginning of spring it is totally abandoned, for the dust renders it disagreeable. At this time, a very amusing and extraordinary scene presents itself: the north side of the street, protected by the high houses, is covered with sledges; whilst, on the south, the carriages with their wheels make a cloud of dust. The spring smiles on one side, and the winter frowns on the other.

Here the winter evenings present a very fine and magical spectacle. Many of the houses in this street have the windows composed of one entire piece of pier glass, some of them more than seven feet in length, which, when the rooms are lighted seem to be open spaces. The appearance is still more extraordinary and picturesque, when you meet in the streets peasants with frosted beards, and at the same time behold through these windows,

windows, ladies with naked arms, and roses and jessamines flourishing with full vigour; indeed, the whole appears to be an enchantment. There are also, in this street many magazines and stores, having similar windows beautifully illuminated, where are displayed all the treasures of the world: bronzes, jewels, porcelaine, furs, &c. arranged with great art and taste, and which add greatly to the magnificence of the scene.

There is not, certainly, in the world another city where can be found this luxury of glass.— Within a short time this fancy has prodigiously increased. Twenty-nine years ago the Empress Catherine II. first ordered glass windows of this kind for the new pavillion of *Zarskoe-Selo**. This luxury, truly imperial, was the admiration of every one; and it was shown to travellers as a great curiosity. At the present day you see in St. Petersburg many houses, all with such windows.

Under the immense arches of the Casan's-Church pass two fine streets, which almost cut the city in half. In the summer you perceive, through the columns and arches to the right, the verdure of the garden of the orphan house, which has a beautiful effect; and through the pillars of the other side, the river *Moika* presents a little ocean.

* One of the imperial country palaces.



THE FIELD OF MARS.

THE annexed Plate represents the Field of Mars, one of the finest views in St. Petersburg. It may claim this title from its beauty, its extent, and from the objects it comprehends. The fine bronze statue of Suwaroff, the majestic obelisk of Romanzoff, the summer gardens, and the palace of St. Michael, are its ornaments. This square will be perfect, and indeed unique, when the two projected statues of two celebrated captains of our times, Prince Koutousoff, and General Moreau, shall embellish it on the two opposite sides. What public place may then boast of being adorned with objects of superior interest?—of possessing within its boundaries, monuments of greater heroes? *If they are not the gods of war, they are the most distinguished pupils of Mars.*

Behold in the distance the statue of the immortal Suwaroff, the general who has acquired the exclusive glory of never having sustained a defeat; it is that hero of Rinninsk, where he beat an army of

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one hundred and fifty thousand Turks, with fifteen thousand Russians ; it is he, who with a handful of intrepid soldiers, fought his way over the hitherto insurmountable St. Gothard, and after having within the space of three months, delivered Italy from the yoke of jacobinism—led them into the heart of France. Every thing in these events must be attributed solely to the genius of the man, who conducted those enterprises. Circumstances did not tend to aid him—it was he alone who performed all—he, who gifted with a profound knowledge of men and things, conceived at a glance, the means of making men and things co-operate for the success of his designs—it is he, who having once formed his plan, executed it with more promptitude than would have been requisite to develop it in words. It is he, who by the rapidity and skilful direction of his marches, the justness and precision of his movements, the boldness of his attack and surprise of the enemy, left them no time to recognise him, and always beat them.—It is he, who infused into the souls of his soldiers an ardour and a force beyond human nature ; and who introduced among them as much unanimity and cordial co-operation, as he scattered among his adversaries, terror, mistrust, and disorder.—It is he, whose magnanimity, goodness, and justice, captivated those whom he conquered—It is he, who by all these qualities has rendered himself worthy of the name of a great man,

which

which the equity of his contemporaries, and of his posterity has conferred on his memory.

This magnificent obelisk is dedicated to the victories of Marshal Romanzoff. Who has not heard of the conqueror of the Turks, the hero of Carga and Cahoul ? The glory of the age of Catharine ? Marshal Count Romanzoff, besides the services which he rendered to his country, obtained by the strength and example of his talents and his virtues, the honourable distinction of being the first to render the military force of Russia so formidable. The grateful feelings of the Russians, expect with impatience, from the justice of the Emperor Alexander, a monument to the memory of Prince Koutousoff, the saviour of his Empire. Yes, he has well deserved the glory of being at the head of those great men, who saved their country from the yoke of the audacious usurper, who came with a force chosen from the troops of all Europe, to ravage Russia by fire and sword. Yes, being armed with patriotism, and with confidence of his brothers in arms, and of the whole country ; he annihilated those five hundred thousand invaders, while Europe was waiting in trembling suspense, and was ready to exclaim on calculating the physical force opposed against her : "Russia is lost!" Yes, it is under him, that Russians of every class have the happiness of participating in the salvation of their country

country, and of making exploits and sacrifices unexampled in the annals of the world ! The generous, the magnanimous Alexander, felt what he and his empire owe to that immortal hero, and addressed the annexed letter to his consort, from Dresden, April 25, 1813.

“ *Princess Catharine Illinishna !*

“ *THE ALMIGHTY, whose decrees*
“ *it is impossible for mortals to resist, and unlawful*
“ *to murmur at, has been pleased to remove your*
“ *husband, Prince Michael Larionovitch Kutousoff*
“ *Smolenskoy, in the midst of his brilliant career of*
“ *victory and glory, from a transient to an eternal*
“ *life. A great and grievous loss, not for you a-*
“ *alone, but for the country at large ! Your tears*
“ *flow not alone for him—I weep—all Russia weeps*
“ *with you. Yet, God, who has called him to him-*
“ *self, grants you this consolation, that his name*
“ *and his deeds are immortal ; a grateful country*
“ *will never forget his merits. Europe, and the whole*
“ *world will for ever admire him, and inscribe his*
“ *name on the list of the most distinguished com-*
“ *manders. A monument shall be erected to his*
“ *honour ; beholding which, the Russian will feel*
“ *his heart swell with pride, and the Foreigner will*
“ *respect a nation that gives birth to such great*
“ *men. I have given orders that you shall retain*
“ *all the advantages enjoyed by your late husband,*
“ *and remain, your affectionate,*

“ *ALEXANDER.*”

The fourth monument will be sacred to the memory of General Moreau ; to the hero, who fell fighting under the banner of the saviour of Europe, Alexander the Great—to the great man, who died shedding his last drop of blood, and consecrating his last political act, to the success of the high and beneficent projects of that monarch. The generous foresight of the Emperor Alexander, went to seek out from his exile in America, this modern Belisarius, whither he had been banished by the country which he had served with as much glory as fidelity ; and called into exercise the talents of this celebrated general.—Moreau obeyed ; he appeared in the ranks of the allies, fighting for universal liberty—when the first cannon shot struck him with an *illustrious death !*

The draw-bridges and batteries of the palace of St. Michael happily correspond by their chivalric architecture, with the character of the Field of Mars.

Lastly, it is in this square that the Emperor Alexander delighted to exercise his victorious troops ; it is from hence, that at their head, he marched forth to send terror among his enemies, to give peace to Europe, and to acquire the admiration of the Universe !

THE CIRCASSIANS.

THE mountains of Caucasus are inhabited by various hordes, who differ with respect to language, but who almost all resemble each other in their manner of living, religion, and customs. Very few amongst them are engaged in agriculture, the greater part supporting themselves by their flocks and by pillage. Their origin is almost lost in the obscurity of historical tradition: some learned men pretend, that they are the remains of the numerous troops sent by the Caliphs to Mount Caucasus. By others we are taught to believe, that they are the descendants of the ancient Agedes mentioned by Pliny; and as such we consider them. In general, their high antiquity is less known than visible in the remains of monuments, which we still find in their country. The most interesting of all these people of Caucasus are those of Circassia, the description of whom may give an idea of all the rest. It will make known the degrees of their general civilization; and, we may say, that this people have the same relation to all mountaineers,



mountaineers, as the Peruvians and Mexicans have to the other inhabitants of the new world. In the time of the Greeks and Romans, Circassia was part of the Asiatic Scythia, and in that of the Emperors of Byzantium, it was reckoned among the possessions of the Sarmatians.

The original Circassians will be found in Arabia, whence they retired into Egypt, and placed themselves under the protection of the Emperors of Byzantium, who permitted them to live in the Crimea. The vexations of the Tartars under Zenghis-kan, and under Basti-kan, having forced them to quit the country, they evacuated it to retire to the shores of the *Couban* and Terek, and *Cabarda*. They at present possess all the islands of lower *Couban*, the left side of the same river to its source, and are spread along Terek and around the environs of the Black Sea to Abassa.

When in the year 1484, the Ottomans took the towns and forts of Tainau, Temruk, and Aschouk, situated at the mouth of the *Couban*, they could not conquer the Circassians. They are now subjects of the Russian empire, have taken the oath of allegiance and have given hostages, chosen from the first of their nobility.

Their government is a mixture both of aristocracy

cracy and democracy. The supreme power is in the hands of their Beys*. In all undertakings, the people assemble on a vast open space. The Beys propose the subject of the meeting, which is discussed by the nobles; the elders pronounce, and their judgment is always without appeal. The education of the young Beys deserves the attention of the philosopher. To prevent the rigor of their education from being abated by the love of the parents, they are taken from the cradle into the house of a man of the common class, chosen for that purpose by the nation, and to whom they trust this precious pledge. There, the son of a man of the first rank, becomes by friendship, the brother of the lowest; there, in the humble cottage, the future sovereign of a great nation is bred up in all the virtues, in all benevolent qualities; there, finally, when he has attained the age of puberty, when his mind is able to understand the whole importance of his destiny, is discovered to him the secret of his birth, and the sacred duties prescribed by his rank. Should his virtues answer the hopes and wishes of his subjects, should he possess their hearts and their esteem, the happy Mentor enjoys the same glory as his pupil. Any spoils, made by the young warrior,

* The Bey is the sovereign prince among the Circassians.

rior, are deposited at his governor's feet as a testimony of his gratitude. The glory of his conduct, his valour, the merit of his trophies, are common to both: the people, thankful for their happiness, make the air resound with the names of their benefactors.

The civil institutions have many affinities with the commonwealth of Lyceurgus; and this savage nation often reminds the stranger of the civilized Spartans. Here, as at Lacedæmon, the principal science of youth, is to steal with dexterity. A dextrous theft is rewarded with glory and approbation: if discovered, it brings shame and punishment. Who could believe, that from such a gang of young thieves, should spring forth a nation of heroes? Nothing can be compared to the skill and swiftness of the Circassian on horseback. Mounted on his steed, he shoots his arrow at a distant object with such astonishing precision, as always to hit the mark. It is impossible to describe his agility, when he intends to perform the most daring enterprise—he will seize his enemy on the other bank of the river Couban, and bring him home alive. With the rapidity of lightning he flies upon his prey, which he puts upon his saddle; it would be useless to pursue the robber: in the twinkling of an eye, he is already on the opposite side of the river. Those mountain horse-

men would be of most essential service, if, by military discipline, a stop could be put to their ravaging instinct. The war, which they continually carry on with their neighbours, their achievements, always crowned with success; and hunting, which says Buffon, is the amusement of heroes, make of the Circassians, the most courageous and warlike nation. Some remains of Christianity found in this country, with the evidences afforded in the annals of Byzantium, induce us to believe that the Christian religion was introduced among them under the Greek emperors, and afterwards by the Czar Ivan Vassilievitch. Their actual religion is a shadow of Mahomedanism. Superstition rules their minds. They fear witchcraft, divine by auguries, and believe that all human events depend on some superstitious ceremonies.

Nothing is more curious than their manners. Among them love is always veiled. Young people are allowed to visit each other, but the least liberty is forbidden. Marriages are settled between the parents. As soon as the young couple are united by eternal ties, they are obliged to separate from each other even at the altar, and are not allowed to be together again during the day. It is only the solitary star of night which lights for them the torch of love; the dawn never finds them in the

the arms of each other. Marriage also interrupts for a time the intercourse between the two families; nor dare the new-married couple present themselves to their parents, before they can show a pledge of their conjugal love; before the child's smiles have reconciled them. Husbands look upon marriage as a sacrament of the greatest mystery: the politest question about his wife or children, a Circassian would take for an insult. At twelve a young girl ties closely round her waist a leather girdle, with small silver buckles, and dare not take it away. On the day of her marriage, she brings to her husband, with the first kiss, the right of cutting her girdle with his dagger.

One of the greatest of virtues—the love of hospitality, particularly characterizes this people. A foreigner is perfectly safe under the protection of his *Coumak* *. Whatever be his religion or his country, the traveller finds peace and comfort under the hospitable roof of the savage Circassian. When received under the people's protection, his life becomes a sacred pledge. Should he be murdered, all the relations of his chosen Coumak, would hurry to revenge the laws of hospitality. The stranger who has pleased a woman, and deserved

* Such is the name given among them, to the foreigner's guide and protector, chosen for that purpose by the people.

served her love and protection, is also shielded with the general love of the people.

In the attachment of the women to their husbands, we perceive more self-love than tenderness. After the Indian custom, which prescribes to the widows to kill themselves upon their husband's tomb; the Circassian women, on the death of their husbands, make large wounds on their bodies, and cut their faces in token of their sorrow. All follow this custom; all, like the sad Artemisia, weep on their husband's urn; but we must confess, that they rather perform the part of the Ephesian matrons: they take good care how they make these wounds; and no one would be so awkward as to spoil the beauty of her face or bosom.

When the life of a Circassian has been taken away, whatever may have been the motive of the perpetrator—even if it be an innocent homicide, which is justified by the natural law, their maxim is *blood for blood*. It happens very often, that one generation transmits to another the execution of this sanguinary vengeance. Almost all the wars between that country and Russia, have had no other motive, than the sacred duty of revenging blood-shed.

The Circassians are but indifferent agriculturists;

rists ; all their time is applied to the rearing of horses, whose strength, beauty and agility are so justly famous. By their civil laws, they are induced to neglect their quiet occupations of peace ; for as soon as the trumpet sounds, the farmer forsakes his plough, the shepherd his flock, the mechanic his work ; all cheerfully fly to arms.

The Circassians are tall, well shaped and robust. Their well formed limbs approach to human perfection ; their features are regular, and their countenances express a calm dignity of mind. Their eye-brows and foreheads bear a striking character of heroism and courage : their eyes are large, animated and full of fire ; and the nose is rather aquiline. All their actions show magnanimity and independence. Their complexion is brown, and they are always fresh-coloured. They shave the head and beard, and suffer only their mustaches to grow, and a small toupee of hair on the head.

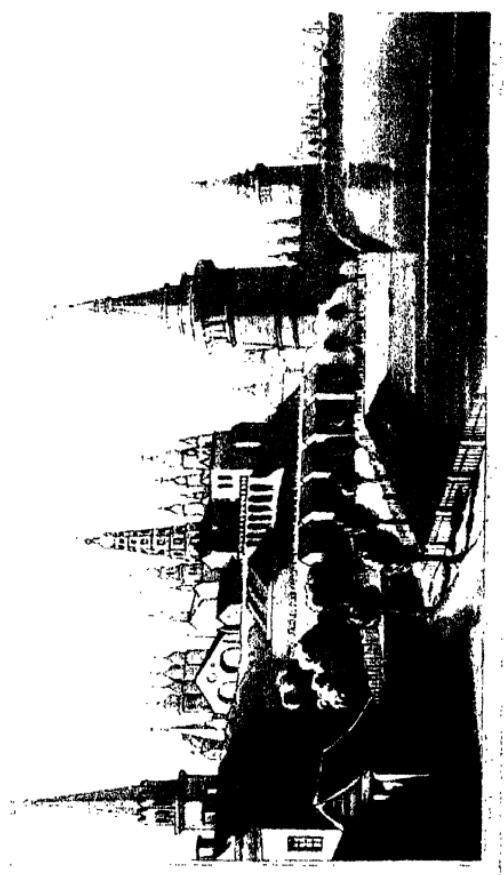
The Circassian women are small and finely shaped, and their constitution is rather delicate. The harmony of their features is perfect : their demeanor is lively and engaging, and their motions full of grace and voluptuousness. They deserve with justice to be called the handsomest women in the world. Turkish and Persian merchants come to this country to choose women, whom they buy at an immense price.

The

The men's dress is very handsome, and bears the military stamp. The complete armour consists of the firelock, the bow, quiver and arrows, the shield, two pistols, and two daggers. The richest have silver cuirasses worked with small rings, which have a good effect and look very martial. Although these are impenetrable to balls and arrows, the indentations occasioned by those missiles produce dreadful contusions. Sometimes these cuirasses are used as helmets, which protect both their heads and shoulders.

Their language is a kind of Cabasidian, which is spoken among the nations of Caucasus, and has no affinity whatever with that of the surrounding countries.

The Circassians have neither laws nor tribunals. Human *memory*, constitutes their *archives*, verbal *traditions*, their *tablets*, the experience of the aged, their *Courts of Justice*.



THE
KREMLIN.

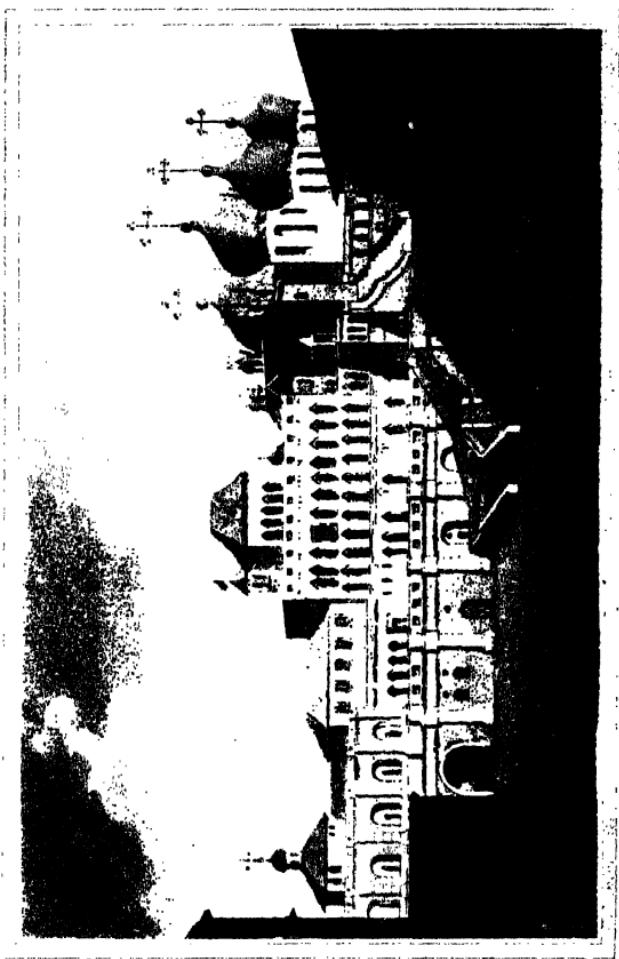
THE Kremlin is one of the four cities which comprise the immense and ancient capital of the Russian empire:—the word is Tartarian, and signifies fortress. It is situated upon an eminence and bathed by the rivers Moskwa and Neglinka; it occupies the place where the grand Duc Danilo Alexandrovitch, in 1300, laid the foundation of the city of Moscow, in wood, and now it forms the centre of this capital. The grand Duc Dimitry Ivanovitch Denskoy, in 1367, caused it to be rebuilt in stone; and it was afterwards embellished by the Duc Ivan Vassilievitch, who having invited architects from Italy, considerably extended it with a vast number of beautiful edifices.

The Kremlin is encompassed by brick walls, very high and thick, and a deep ditch. Before the invention of gunpowder this fortress was look-

ed upon as one of the best. Its interior is irregular and makes several angles ; each of which is flanked by a magnificent tower in the Gothic style, square and round, with spiral minarets, covered with scaly tiles like the skin of a fish, painted green, yellow and crimson, and surmounted with a gilded ball and vane. There are five gates leading to the Kremlin : the two principal ones are ornamented with repeating clocks, which Peter the Great caused to be brought from Holland. One of those gates, known by the name of the *Holy Gate*, is never passed by any person, of whatever rank he may be, but with the head uncovered : this custom, continued from remote antiquity, is in reverence of a Saint whose image is placed over it.

In the northern tower of the fortress was found a bell, known by the name of *Vetchevoy Noloko*. The sound of this bell was terrific to the ancient inhabitants of Moscow : it was never tolled, but to sound the alarm of a conspiracy, or some affair of the utmost importance. The nobles and the citizens immediately ran to the square called *Lobnoe Mesto*, where the council was held, and the affair was immediately decided by a majority of voices.

The Kremlin is particularly interesting from
the



the circumstance of having been the residence of princes, whose names need only be mentioned to command the homage of every heart loyal to true kingly virtue. Michael Romanoff, Alexis Michailovitch, Tevdor, and the great Peter, sanctify it by their renown.

Amidst the objects which deserve to be particularly mentioned, there will be found in the Kremlin—

1. The imperial palace, built in 1487, by John Iv^{an}ovitch. It has been since converted into an arsenal, where are preserved the regalia, which serve at the consecration of the emperors. Here also is a cabinet of articles esteemed precious either for their rarity or antiquity. Besides the dresses of the Russian sovereigns, their crowns, their arms, and thrones set with diamonds and pearls; there are also found the crowns of the vanquished kingdoms of *Cazan*, *Siberia*, *Astracan*, and *Crimea*. Here may likewise be seen the *Ark* of massy gold, made by order of the Empress Catharine the Great, in which are preserved the manuscripts containing the wise laws written by the Czar Alexis, father of Peter the Great.

2. *The Poteschnoy*, or palace of recreation, built by Alexis Michailovitch. This prince caused comedies to be represented there, and concerts to be performed by foreign musicians.

3. The granite palace, destined for the assemblage of the senate, was erected by the Czar Boris Godunoff. This palace, the steeple of Ivan Velikey, and many other splendid edifices in Moscow, as also the fortress of Smolensko and several new towns, are monuments of the great mind of the Czar Boris, and of his generosity and love for his people. During the two year's famine which desolated Russia, the Czar, by admirable means afforded subsistence to his people by employing them in works beneficial to the country.

4. The palace of the Empress Elizabeth, the gardens of which, by means of stone arches, are suspended over the river of Moscow.

5. The cathedral, dedicated to the Assumption, was built in 1495, by Aristotle, a Venetian architect. It possesses a perfect treasury of religious consecrations, and it is distinguished above the rest, as being the place where all the Emperors of Russia are crowned.

6. The cathedral of our Saviour is remarkable for its antiquity: it was built in 1328, and is, at this day, in the same state as at first. Tradition says that it stands in the same place, where was, in old times, the abode of a hermit, called *Bucal*, in the centre of an impenetrable forest. On this account this church bears the name of *Spass Naborn*, which signifies the *Forest Church*.

7. The cathedral of the Annunciation was built

in 1333, rebuilt in 1489, and painted in fresco 1505. Several Czars and grand Dukes have been interred in this church. Their tombs are of stone, covered with palls of scarlet velvet superbly embroidered.

8. The cathedral of the Archangel Michael was constructed in 1333, and removed in 1505. It is painted in fresco by an Italian, named Aleviso. Here are also several tombs of the Russian emperors.

9. The belfry of Ivan Velikoy*, has received its name in honour of St. John. It is 269 feet in height, and is crowned by a cupola bearing a wooden cross nineteen feet in length, covered with brass plates; the cross and cupola are both highly gilded. The inscription on the steeple expresses the name of the founder, and the epoch of its construction, 1600. It contains thirty-three bells, four of which are of an immense size, and two of silver.

The extraordinary bell named after the steeple *Ivan Velikoy*, is at the bottom of this edifice, sunk several feet in the earth. The fracture, which was occasioned by its fall at the time of the conflagration which consumed the whole interior of the belfry actually serves as a gate for the visitors, who are led by curiosity to see this immense brazen pyramid.

* Of Tall John.

pyramid. It weighs 432,000 pounds; its lower circumference is twenty yards, its height twenty-two feet, and its thickness two feet. The iron clapper, which is at a little distance, is not less than seventeen feet long. It was only on great festivals that this bell was tolled, or when the Czars gave audience at the Kremlin to extraordinary ambassadors from foreign powers. The metal of the bell is whitish. This colour is attributed to the great quantity of silver coins thrown by the visitors into the metal when it was in fusion. It was cast in 1653, and certainly is the largest in the world; that of Pekin not excepted.

Here it is proper to say a few words about the ancient cannons preserved in the Kremlin, under a stone vault. Their dimensions merit general admiration. One of these cannon is of such a prodigious calibre, that two men may sit in it at their ease. It was cast in 1694, and is twenty-two feet long. If fired with its proper charge of powder, it would endanger all the buildings in the vicinity, so tremendous would be the concussion.

10. The ancient palace of the patriarchs, which is behind the church of the Assumption. The Synod holds here its session. It contains a library, in which are found many precious manuscripts in the Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Sclavonian languages,

guages. The habits of the ancient patriarchs are of a richness far surpassing those collected in the treasury *della santa Casa di Loretto*. Some of these habits, studded with jewels and pearls, weigh upwards of sixty pounds.

It was at the printing-office of the synod at the Kremlin, that the first book in Russia was printed in 1564 ; this was the bible in Slavonian. At the Kremlin also, in the year 1654, the first Russian money was coined.

The Empress Catharine the Great, formed the project of rendering the Kremlin as celebrated by its edifices, as it is by its antiquity. The plan was already adopted, and the model was exhibited to the curious : it alone cost 50,000 roubles. The architect who projected this plan was a Russian, named Bajanoff. The expenses necessary for the completion of this undertaking, would have amounted to fifty millions of roubles. The work was begun, but a combination of circumstances prevented the accomplishment. The whole Kremlin, which is above three miles in circumference, was according to this plan, to compose one body or rather one magnificent palace. The cathedrals and belfries, which of themselves are enormous edifices, were to be comprehended within the circuit of the court-yards. The theatre, the senatorial
palace

palace, and the pendant gardens, would have been only its appendages. The exterior of this palace was to have been embellished with beautiful pillars, according to the different orders of architecture, and the niches with marble statues, executed by the best Italian artists. The interior, as well for magnificence as for taste, was to correspond with the exterior. On all sides the eye would have been dazzled with marble, bronze, and paintings. Were this fabric finished, doubtless, it would surpass the most superb of modern or ancient times ; nay, the famous Temple of Solomon, or the Propylæum of Amasis, or the Villa of Adrian, and would be the wonder of the world.

In former times the Kremlin was accounted a part of Kitai-gorod, and was the abode of the chief nobility, who had their houses there ; whereas in latter times none of the private people lived there, and it wholly consisted of public buildings, four of which were convents and nineteen were churches.

The architecture of the Kremlin was intirely different from that even of the other parts of Moscow, therefore more from that of other countries. It is difficult to trace its origin. It is known that the greatest part of these edifices were constructed by Italians ; but the style unites that of Tartary, India, China, and the Goths. It is this diversity which renders the view of the Kremlin picturesque beyond descrip-

description. The walls and the towers were repaired and painted by order of the Emperor Alexander, in 1805, without any diminution either of their ancient form or appearance. The banks of the river Moskwa, which runs at its foot, were also covered with granite, to resemble the superb quays of St. Petersburg, surrounded with a very fine iron railing, and intersected with avenues of lofty trees. These were recently the most favorite mall, or *promenade* of the inhabitants of Moscow, and certainly what could be more picturesque and interesting to them? on the one side the gothic Kremlin with its cupolas brilliant with gold—this palladium consecrated by so many events precious to the hearts of Russians,—on the other, the river covered with shallôps laden with the riches of the neighbouring provinces, and the painted gondolas with musicians and singers. The two bridges displaying in the watery mirror a perpetual motion. Here the stately foundling-hospital, there the castles and superb palaces of the nobles. In fine, the eye, fascinated by the course of the flood, discovers verdant gardens, meadows, villas and majestic *sparrow* mountains. What a scene! This is a walk worthy of a great people.

The Kremlin was invaded in 1610 by the Poles, and by the French in 1812, on the 14th September. On the former occasion it was delivered by three

patriots, the Prince Pojarsky, Minin, and Palitzin. In the invasion of Moscow by the French, every Russian has been Pojarsky, Minin, and Palitzin.

When after the death of the false Demetrius, Sigismund and Zaroutsky, masters of the Kremlin, had the intention of retaining the supreme power in their own hands; Minin, a butcher of Nigni Novgorod, formed a bold design to save his country. He assembled his fellow-citizens, imploring them to employ all in their power for the salvation of their native land. His noble enthusiasm electrified the souls of all who heard him: every one who was able, took up arms, and the rest gave all that they possessed. The virtuous monk, Palitzin, had in the mean time by his eloquence persuaded his brethren to sacrifice their treasures to aid these new deliverers. With the treasures and the levy, Minin hastened to Prince Pojarsky, the distinguished general and patriot, who lived retired on his estate; and confided to him the restoration of his country. God crowned their patriotism with the most complete success.

The Emperor Alexander caused to be erected a magnificent monument to these heroes, in the city of Nigni Novgorod, their native place, and the cradle of the liberty of Russia. The chissel of
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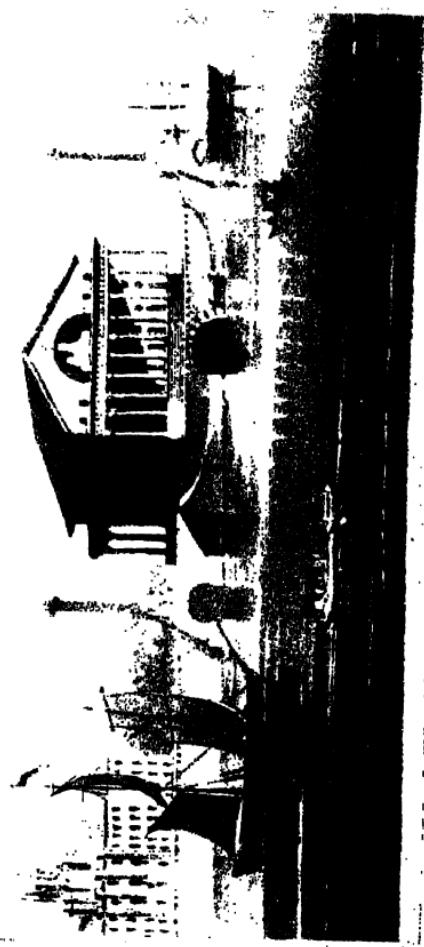
the eminent artist Martos, produced with infinite grandeur and a combination of fine thoughts the exploits of those great patriots.

If the most merciless enemies and the lapse of ages dared not to attempt the ruin of the Kremlin, the French employed all their means to destroy that sanctuary of the Russians; and when Bonaparte already exclaimed that "this ancient citadel from whence is dated the foundation of the Empire, this first place of the Czar exists no longer—it has been blown into the air by the Duke of Treviso!"—Providence did not allow their sacrilegious hands to accomplish that outrage. Early on the morning of the 23rd October, almost the whole of the French garrison having retired, leaving only a few desperadoes, who were bribed not to quit the Kremlin until it was reduced to ashes, the first explosion took place. The Cozak general Illovaiskoy, who had determined to save it, seizing this as the signal of attack, rushed on with his brave followers, and before another mine could be sprung, forced the gates and took prisoners all the incendiaries with the very fire-brands in their hands.

Thus was frustrated the infernal plan of Napoleon for the destruction of this sacred citadel; a plan, the full execution of which, would have annihilated thousands of his sick and wounded,

who lay in churches and other large buildings; and thus the glory of Moscow was vindicated and preserved. Only one of the towers, and a small part of the wall were thrown down. The citadel, the palace, the arsenal, and their public edifices were saved. What a moment of extatic triumph for the gallant Hovaiskoy—when he planted the standard of the lawful sovereign on the walls of the Kremlin !!

Bonaparte, on his entrance into Moscow, had caused to be taken down the cross from the steeple of *Tall John*, either to add to his trophies, or in reference to a vulgar superstitious tradition—That with the loss of that cross—Russia is lost!!



THE
NEW EXCHANGE,
IN
ST. PETERSBURG

THE New Exchange has a just claim to be ranked among the best edifices of this fine capital. The exchange of Bordeaux, which heretofore held the first place in point of beauty, must now be inferior in the estimation of the best judges. Besides the excellence of its architecture, which it owes to the talents of Mr. Tomon, its site is very happily chosen. It is built on the point of confluence of the two rivers the Nieva and the little Nievka. Vessels may touch at its quays, which are of the highest beauty; and their cargoes are deposited in the warehouses which extend along the banks of the little Nievka.

It is much to be regretted that the bar at the mouth of the Nieva, does not admit vessels of more than

than one hundred and twenty tons to come up to St. Petersburg; those of greater burthen remain at Cronstadt, which is a great impediment to commerce; for merchandize is transported thence to the capital by means of barges, or in winter by sledges, at which season the whole sea from Cronstadt to St. Petersburg presents one solid surface of ice.

This fine monument of taste and high architecture was erected in 1810, at the joint expense of the merchants of St. Petersburg. I cannot omit mentioning here that this respectable corporation of citizens, has recently distinguished itself by a noble and generous action which will be recorded with honour among the annals of Russia. The merchants have purchased a very fine mansion, of which they have made a present to the gallant General Wigtenchtein as the homage of their gratitude for his exploits in 1812, when that brave general opposed with constant success, on the side of St. Petersburg, an enemy infinitely superior to him in force.

For the most conspicuous embellishments of this noble edifice the revival of a flourishing commerce alone is wanting. There is no doubt that the return of the Monarch to his capital will be followed by the encouragement of this branch of happiness

happiness and wealth of the country, this real horn of abundance.

The foreigners who will flock hither in crowds, will be heartily welcomed, will make great profits, and on their return into their native countries will celebrate Russia and her illustrious monarch.

AMUSEMENTS ON THE ICE,

IN

R U S S I A.

AN ambassador from a Northern power, while conversing with the King of Siam, who was all curiosity and attention, told him, among other things, that at a certain period of the year, all the rivers in his country were frozen; and at that time were capable of bearing a carriage. The Indian monarch, conceiving himself imposed upon, was much enraged: ordered the ambassador to be silent, and declared he would never after believe a single word he might utter.

How much more would this king have been surprised, had he been told that the Russians even build houses of ice, and on ice?

Every country has its national amusements, which characterize it, and mark the disposition
of



of its inhabitants. The Spaniards have their *bull-fights*, the English their *races* and *boxing-matches*; the French are delighted with dancing, &c.; while in Russia the *ice mountains* in winter, and the *swings in summer*, form the principle recreation of the people.

The Carnival, which is the season of merriment throughout Europe, is also devoted to pleasure in Russia: mountains of ice are erected in every city, and almost every village of the empire.

In St. Petersburg they are always constructed upon the Neva, opposite to the Imperial palace, from which the Russian monarch can behold his subjects enjoying innocent sport, and frolicking in the fulness of that happiness which he bestows on them.

The ice mountains are formed upon beams often seventy feet high, down the declivity of which the sledge is conveyed with astonishing swiftness. There are persons who make it their business to guide you, and who direct these little sledges in a straight line with the most perfect address. Sliding down this glassy surface with the rapidity of lightning, you pass in a moment over several hundred feet. The pleasure of feeling yourself transported this great distance in the twinkling

of an eye, is so exquisite as not to be described ; it can only be compared to enchantment. This is the principal amusement of the Russians during the carnival. Even private individuals raise such mountains in their gardens ; and the ball-room is often abandoned for the pleasure of sliding down an ice-mountain. To render this diversion more easy and pleasant, there are large chairs fixed on skates, and these are always guided by a man, standing behind, also provided with skates. How often have I seen the most beautiful Russian ladies, dressed as lightly as if it were spring, after the fatigue of the *country-dance* or the *quadrille*, throw on their pelisses of costly fur, and leave the house, to exhibit their graceful forms in a rapid descent. It makes one shudder to see them exposing their delicate frames to so much danger ; but the Russian ladies brave the cold with great heroism, and leave this exercise glowing with increased health and beauty, and displaying fresh roses on their lovely cheeks. At night these mountains are illuminated with coloured lamps, which greatly heighten the fairy scene. The reflection of this mass of variegated light from the snow affords a most beautiful spectacle.

Charlatans, or slight of hand gentry of every description, profit by the occasion, and collect round sums from the people, who feel in a humour
to

to part with their money. Round these mountains wooden stages or booths are erected, in one of which there is an exhibition of curious animals brought from foreign countries; in another, rope-dancing; in a third, a puppet shew; in a fourth, phantasmagoria; and so on. The price of admittance to these sights is so trifling that every one may share in the general gaiety. The nobility and gentry drive about in superb sledges, and the Empress Catharine II. was often seen riding here among her beloved people. A very large rich sledge was constructed for that purpose, capable of containing the whole imperial family; to which were attached by chains fourteen or sixteen smaller sledges, following in successive pairs, for her majesty's suite. These sledges were drawn by twelve or fourteen handsome horses, magnificently caparisoned; and in the evening were illuminated with coloured lamps, which added greatly to the beauty of the scene.

It is still the custom in several provinces in Russia to personify the carnival: it is often represented by a Bacchus escorted by satyrs and bacchanalians. This group parade through the streets in a chariot, built for the occasion in a most fantastic style. In general the principal personage is a buffoon or a clown, who displays various tricks, such as deceptions with

with cards, swallowing penknives, &c. to amuse the people: sometimes music and grotesque dancing are introduced, and add much to the variety and the pleasure of the entertainment.

The Empress Elizabeth once gave a magnificent *fête* on a similar occasion. It was truly imperial, and consisted of an historical, or rather geographical masquerade. Several months previous to the carnival she sent orders to all the governors of the provinces, to send from each to St. Petersburg, two couple of inhabitants, dressed in their national habits, with the necessary accompaniments. So that during the carnival of the year 1754, persons belonging to more than forty different nations were seen riding through the streets of St. Petersburg.—The *Kamchadates* on sledges drawn by dogs, the *Laplanders* on sledges drawn by *rein-deer*, the *Bucharians* upon *camels*, the *Calmucks* upon *oxen*, the *Circassians* mounted upon the finest *coursers*, the *Indians* seated on huge *elephants*, forming altogether a picturesque group in the nuptial procession of the Empress's *Jester*, who personated winter, and was drawn by *bears*. An immense gallery was built expressly for the occasion, where each nation amused itself with its own music and dancing, producing thereby a curious confusion of sounds. Each nation had a dinner prepared, and served according to its own fashion.

The

The newly-married couple were finally conducted by this same escort to a *palace of ice*, built on the river Nieva, where all the ornaments and furniture were made of ice in the most admirable and perfect order; even the bed, and the chandeliers, and the *pieces of cannon*, which fired the salute on the arrival of this procession, and did not burst.

The Empress spent an immense sum on this feast, but it procured her the means of seeing all the different manners and customs of the numerous nations, which obeyed her sceptre.

THE MODE OF TRAVELLING IN RUSSIA.

A RUSSIAN displays in every action and habit, from his diversions, such as ice-mountains and swings, even to his mode of travelling, a character of fire and vivacity. With those three horses abreast, you are carried along as if by a hurricane.

There is not a country in the world, where travelling is so rapid and so cheap as in Russia.—With ten pounds sterling you may perform in three days, a journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow, the distance being seven hundred and twenty versts.* To go post you must be provided with a passport from the governor of the province, from whence

* *Verste* is the itinerary measure in Russia, and contains about 552 toises. An English mile is equal to a verst and three-quarters. 105 versts amount to a degree. The relays in Russia are generally at every twenty, or twenty-five versts. The distances are every where distinctly marked by road-posts.



whence you depart, and with this document you will be furnished with fresh horses, every where, without the least delay.

The national conveyances are a *kibitka* in winter, and a *telega* in summer. The former is much more expeditious and commodious than the latter. The excellence of the roads in winter contributes much to the celerity and pleasantness of the journey. Mattresses are placed in the carriage, and you are as much at ease on them as if you were in bed. Travelling by sledges commences in Russia toward the end of November, and continues until the middle of April: As soon as a considerable quantity of snow has fallen, the frost prevails, and the weather becomes very serene. At this period the roads are cleared by means of a triangular machine formed of planks, which is drawn by horses, and throws off the snow on each side, at the same time leveling the causeway, which becomes united and consolidated by the frost. It is only at the commencement of spring, when the heat of the sun begins to thaw the snow, that these roads become unpleasant, especially near Moscow, on account of the number of carriages. Here the line of route assumes the appearance of a stormy sea, covered with immense waves.

The address of the Russian drivers is admirable:

rable: with what superiority they manage their horses, and make even the most restive obey them, though but recently taken from the wild deserts! These people are gay, attentive; and during the journey they are almost continually ca roling the national melodies. How often among these bearded peasants may you distinguish the head of a Jupiter or a Mars!

It is much to be desired that the advantages of travelling quick and cheap in Russia were combined with those of pleasure and comfort. This is a point in which hitherto improvements have been very slowly made. In the first place the great roads, though very wide, are in general very bad, as well as the post carriages; and the accommodations are still worse; so that the traveller who is accustomed to good cheer and convenience, is obliged to travel in his own carriage, and take along with him all his provisions and cooking utensils. There is no doubt that the Russian government will, without delay, bestow its consideration on this important matter.

The Russian manner of yoking and harnessing horses is quite different from that of other countries. If we were to examine attentively the semicircle, which is attached to the neck of the middle horse, we should perceive that it is not without



without its use, as, by holding the load in equilibrium, it keeps the horse firm in the shafts and prevents him from deviating either way. It is also certain that horses abreast will travel quicker than when yoked in line. The Russian drivers are very fond of tying little bells to these semi-circles, which being heard afar off, give notice to the relay-stations of the traveller's approach.

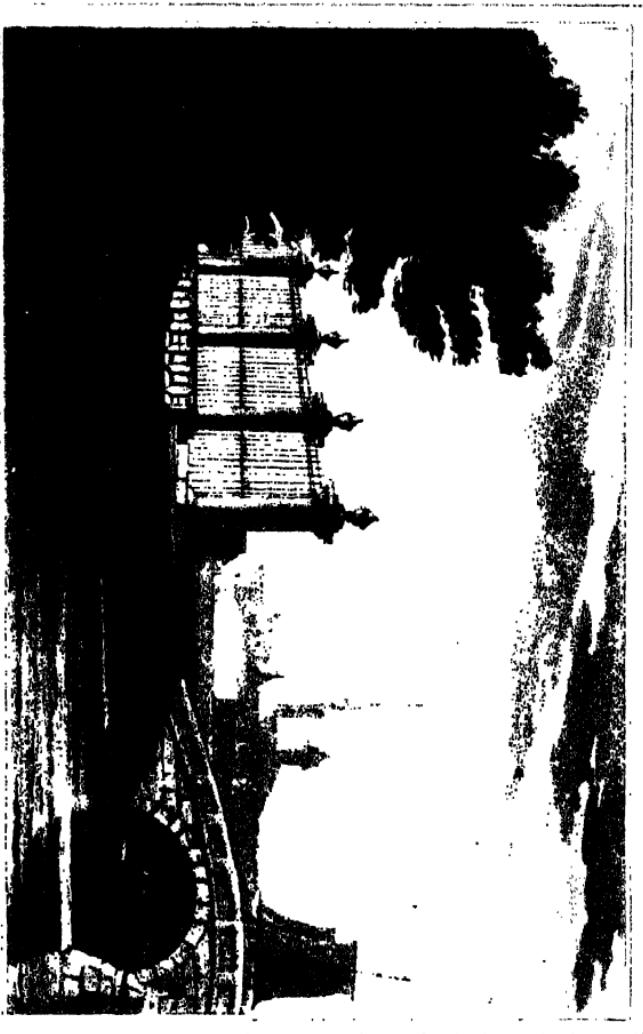
SUMMER GARDEN,

IN

ST. PETERSBURG.

IT is a fact, that an Englishman came to St. Petersburg only to see the inclosure of the Summer Garden. He viewed it with great admiration, and returned directly to England. He was an eccentric man; but, in truth, this inclosure is the handsomest in the world: so it is estimated by all artists and amateurs of the fine arts. Even the Romans and Greeks might have boasted of such a beautiful monument of taste and magnificence. Who can look without admiration on those immense columns of granite, fourteen feet high, and four in diameter, placed on pedestals of the same stone? Those thirty-six columns, each cut out of one piece of granite and polished like a mirror? Those vases and urns resting on pillars ornamented with gold rings? those spires of the railing so highly gilt?

Its beauty, when viewed from the other side



A RUSSIAN NATIONAL SONG.

Guitar

Musical score for the first section of "A Russian National Song" for guitar. The score consists of three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The middle staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It includes eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The section ends with the instruction "Andante amoroso".

Andante amoroso

Musical score for the continuation of "A Russian National Song" for guitar. The score consists of three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The middle staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It includes eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords.

Var:1.

Musical score for Variation 1 of "A Russian National Song" for guitar. The score consists of three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The middle staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It includes eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords.

Musical score for the final section of "A Russian National Song" for guitar. The score consists of three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The middle staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It includes eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a common time signature. It features eighth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords.

Var. 2.

The musical score consists of four staves of music, likely for a piano or harpsichord. The top staff uses a treble clef, the second staff a bass clef, the third staff a treble clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The key signature changes throughout the piece, indicated by various sharps and flats. Measure numbers 8 and 16 are visible above the staves. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth-note patterns, with some notes grouped by brackets. The word "loco" appears near the end of the third staff. The score concludes with a final measure ending on a double bar line.

of the Neva, appears still greater: the lustre of the columns, vies with the lively verdure of the trees, which, interlacing their branches, form the resemblance of arches waving with the breeze, and dazzle the eyes with their grandeur. This inclosure was built in 1784, by the great Catharine, and bounds the public garden on the side of the Neva. As it is valued for its workmanship, so is the walk for its beauty. The wide avenues of large trees, or the shady retreats may accommodate the taste of every man. The famous Boulevards of Paris, the thick avenue of the Prado, and that of the Prater, must resign the palm to it. Here is presented to your eyes the noble Neva, covered with vessels full of the riches of foreign countries, and many handsome coloured boats; there the dreary casles of St. Peter and St. Paul show their gold majestic steeples in the smooth blue water; a little farther on the new custom-house, with its obelisks, seems like a magnificent ancient temple, behind which rise the most splendid buildings and palaces; whilst, on the other side, your view rests on verdant gardens and charming country seats. In short, you are here in the middle of an opulent city, and yet respire the clear country air; you admire the activity of the population and the magnificence of the capital, and at the same time you enjoy the solitude of the hermit! you behold the beauties of simple nature, and the astonishing works of art and human genius.

Come here on a night in May, or June, when perpetual light reigns,—come here and sit down under this ancient oak. When your eyes are admiring the clearness of the sky, your senses devour with avidity the freshness of the air,—when all is silent and your imagination alone is rambling. Echo brings from a distance plaintive and agreeable sounds, the harmony approaches by degrees towards you, and plunges your feelings into a melancholy sort of slumber; your imagination flies beyond the limits of this world, and seems to hear the celestial music:—suddenly the harmony of many loud according voices rouses you from the enchantment and gives you a new life. O dear remembrance of the days of these happy sensations! thou art still precious to me! It is the effect of reality produced by the Russian singers in the boat floating on the transparent surface of the Neva, which is one of the favourite amusements of the Russians. This effect is truly astonishing: as the adagio will plunge you into the deepest melancholy, so their gay songs will exalt you to the highest hilarity!

In St. Petersburg you find a great many handsome boats provided with tents and very well furnished: the rowers of which are the singers. Friends with their families on a fine day in June or July, often form parties of pleasure in
one

one of these boats, going round the islands. Among these ten or twelve singers, one generally plays a Russian national instrument, which is like the clarionet; another beats a small drum, and a third the cymbals. Being masterly performed, these instruments harmonize perfectly well with the voice on the water. Who would believe that these delightful sounds, worthy of a chorus of the best Italian musicians, are produced by peasants, who were never taught music, nor any instrument, but are the inspired scholars of Nature*. The expression of the Russian songs, and the softness of the language, are generally admired by foreign musicians, who have introduced many of these tunes with great success into their compositions.

A great part of the Russian ballads are the relation of warlike exploits, or of the love of their heroes of antiquity: they are full of tender expression, and sometimes of admirable poetry. In general they have the seal of Ossian's genius. We here

* Generally the Russians have a disposition for music. Almost every one sings very well, and plays on the *balalaika*, which is a kind of guitar, furnished with from two to four strings. To afford an idea of the tone of this instrument, we have arranged the accompaniment to the annexed music as it is performed on the *balalaika*; it may be played on any other guitar.

here present one of their favorite national songs, so beloved by all classes in Russia: together with its air; it is rendered as near the original as possible.

In freedom gay I hop'd to live,
With care a stranger to my breast;
But now alas! I'm doom'd to grieve,
To feel my heart with woe oppress'd.

The sighs which thus my bosom move,
The tears which thus my cheeks bedew,
They say are fearful sins of love;
Ah me! they say what is too true.

In parting, what but love gives pain?
In meeting, what but love gives joy?
And what but love prompts envy's train
A helpless maiden to destroy!

E'en now, my pure and virgin fame,
Their cruel malice would assail,
But though they sport with my fair name,
Such efforts nothing can avail.

My heart a specious traitor prov'd,
Its flight was to myself unknown;
Unask'd, a stranger, fondly lov'd,
Without his leave—without my own.

Cease then, ye envious—cease to shower
Your venom on my guiltless head;
And rather lend my heart the power,
To quench the flame by which 'tis fed.

Have you not felt love's potent charm?
His painful, sweet, and boundless sway?

In pity then, forbear to harm
A wretch, who has become his prey.

Sooner your dying flower shall bloom,
By bathing tears alone restor'd ;
Or sunless, thrive, in constant gloom,
Than I live from my soul's ador'd.

This side of the garden represents the quay of the river Fontalka, which surrounds it on the eastern side. In no part of the world are there such rich and handsome quays of granite as in St. Petersburg. For more than twenty-five miles the wharfs of the three rivers are covered with this stone, and the public of St. Petersburg are grateful for these handsome foundations. The quays are always covered with people, and no season, no weather detains the Russians in their homes; but in this garden they only walk in the summer months, when the shade of the trees shelters them from the beams of the sun. No walk represents every day such a variety of scenes as this garden. From ten till twelve the scene presents an opposite picture and a very agreeable spectacle: The meadows are covered with groups of handsome children with their nurses. What a study for the painters! Here you behold in nature the angels of Raphael and Rubens! At two o'clock the great alley exhibits to your eyes luxury, magnificence and beauty, under different forms. This is the

hour

hour for the ladies of St. Petersburg to take a walk before their dinner. At seven, men of business and mechanics here rest from the labours of the day : at last the twilight veils all in mystery

Of the great number of ornaments and different amusements in this garden, such as cascades, fountains, &c. there remain only a handsome grotto, covered with shells; some Italian marble statues and busts well executed, as representing *Religion* and *Law*, which are the work of the famous Cordaliny ; and the house built on the same spot, where stood the summer palace of Peter the Great. The remembrance, that this garden was planted by this monarch himself in 1711, renders it still more agreeable and dear to the Russians.

FINIS.

